

The Flight of RICHARD BERING

Chapter 4

Continued

SYNOPSIS.
Michael Bering starts one evening to call upon his brother Richard and nephew, Richard Jr. Just before reaching the house, he sees Richard Jr. leave in great haste, thinking there has been a family quarrel which is not infrequent, he returns home only to be summoned shortly to go to the house of his brother who has been murdered. Mary Irving, the ward of Richard Sr., is there mourning the loss of her friend. She hates Michael and has very short conversation with him. Richard's will is opened, which discloses the fact that Michael and Richard Jr. are to be joint executors. Richard Sr. and his son quarreled because the young man wants to marry Mary Irving, and on the evening of the murder they were alone in the library, and Richard Sr. wants Mary to have other suitors in order to be able to select a husband; Richard Jr. leaves room in anger, and meets Mary in hall, he tells her his father's wishes, and she asks: "Is he going to bring these men here, or must I seek them, these men I must choose among?" In time the detectives felt sure that Richard Jr. had embarked on a sailing vessel for San Francisco. Soon a verdict was rendered charging Richard Jr. with the crime. Michael Bering was very attentive to Mary Irving, he offers to reinvest her fortune. She often went to ride with Michael and found the drives very pleasant and thanks him for kindness to her. "I am very glad to have been of some use to you," he said as he took his leave.

THE MURDER.
RICHARD BERING, JR., was really a fine young man, a young man of unusual promise; but he was very fond of quiet and of his ease. It is no wonder that because of the boisterous times he had of it with his father that quiet should be very welcome to him. He liked on the evenings when he stayed at home, and after he had said "Good night" to Mary Irving, to so arrange the pillows on his bed that he could lie there comfortably for some little time before undressing for the night. He would take a book at such times and sometimes on very wakeful nights he would succeed in reading a very few pages; but usually he would close his book and dream, dream of what the future might have in store for him when he should have become great, but more often he would dream of the quiet life he hoped to live with Mary as his wife. That, he thought, would be better than any struggle for preferment or greater wealth. Upon the night of his father's death, not long after his interview with his father concerning his love for Mary Irving, he was so lying. His book had fallen face downward on the bed beside him. His dream of the future must have been an unusually pleasant one for a smile still hovered about his lips; but now he was asleep, fast asleep. Suddenly he was awakened by some noise on the lower floor. For a few minutes he waited, trying to realize what it was which had disturbed him. Then his drowsiness returned and he was almost asleep again; but he felt an unaccustomed sense of oppression and a sudden fear that something unpleasant, that something dreadful, was about to happen to him overcame him. He rose hastily and hurried down the stairs. As he passed along the second hall and reached the head of the stairway leading to the library and parlor floor he felt that he was foolishly yielding to a purely nervous and unreasonable panic. He debated with himself whether he should go back or not, and then called out, wholly fearing an outbreak, "Is anything the matter, father? Is it all right?" But receiving a gruff "Yes" as the only response he was about to return to his own room thanking his stars that the old gentleman was in so good a humor. But the same sense of evil about him, or to come, returned to him; and then he reflected that his father never would have replied to him in that way and that, indeed, it was not his voice or like it. "I will go down. This hesitation is childish," he said to himself, and he hurried down the stairs, passed quickly along the lower hall and entered the library. The gas was burning brightly. Richard saw everything at a glance, and what he saw was impressed upon his memory forever. His father's desk was open and many papers were scattered about it and on the floor. The doors of the safe were wide open, the furniture was displaced and about all the room there was a sense of disorder and disturbance. But worse than all else the old man lay upon the floor, his arms outstretched and his hands tightly clinched,

breathing heavily. Richard hurried to him. Then he saw a dreadful wound upon his forehead and that his gray hair was all red and matted with his blood. Richard raised his head tenderly and sought to stanch the flow of blood; but almost immediately the old man died. Richard had never looked upon a dying man before; but he knew instinctively that it was so. There could be no mistaking that dreadful rattle in the throat; then the utter inertness of the body could have but one meaning. "Poor old man," Richard said as he looked about helpless in his surprise and astonishment. "What can this dreadful thing mean? Who has done it?" He recovered himself slowly and then he hurried forward. He would go himself to call a doctor, although he knew so well that one could be of little use; but some one else must come to stay with that. As he rose he heard someone moving in the front of the house. He hastened toward the door, leading into the long hall, and, as he opened it, he saw a man run quickly from the parlor through the hall to the front door of the house. Richard had little time for reflection but he noticed even then that the man was without coat or waistcoat for the night was a warm one in the early spring. Then his father's blood must have stirred in his veins for he felt only anger and an intense desire to catch and punish the rascal. Forgetting all else he ran quickly to the door, and then pausing to look about him he soon discovered the white shoulders of the man perhaps half a block away. Richard ran as rapidly as he could; but the man he chased was agile and full of speed. Run as Richard would, past the long open square, stumbling over curbstones and slipping on car tracks, he seemed unable to gain an inch upon his game. With mad rage in his heart he ran on block after block to the astonishment and annoyance of the few people in the dark and narrow streets. Presently he had to cross a wide street brilliant with the light from many stores, and here he narrowly escaped detention for a policeman suspicious of his haste made as if to stop him; but perhaps Richard's evident respectability deterred him, for as he looked further at him he stepped aside and Richard continued on. Still he made no gain and the pursued man ran on for perhaps a block or two farther when he turned suddenly to the right into one of the streets leading toward the river. "Has he doubled on me?" Richard asked himself, and for a minute he was in despair. "Is he going to escape me after all?" he thought to himself; but as he turned the corner he could distinguish the man still about half a block away. This was a street of small houses largely lived in, it would seem, by carmen for there were



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many idle trucks in the street, and at the side of almost every house there was a large door opening upon what promised to be an arched passageway through which horse might be led to stables in the rear and in one leaf of each of these large doors there was a small one. Suddenly the man whom Richard

pursuing disappeared through one of these doors; but Richard was near enough to know which one, and when he came to it he followed without hesitation. To his surprise upon the other side of it there was not the paved passageway he expected, but a flight of steep steps. Down these steps he stumbled into a dimly lighted cellar. About him there were many boxes and barrels. In the centre near the light stood the man he had pursued talking excitedly to a companion. Richard was about to fall upon him but in a minute he was conscious of a dull pain at the back of his head. Many colored lights seemed to dance before his eyes. The floor rose as if to strike him and then all was dark to him.

CHAPTER V.
THE PLIGHT OF MARY IRVING.
For many days for many weeks, indeed, matters went on very well with Michael Bering. He continued to be only duly attentive to Mary Irving. She tried hard to enjoy life as it was given her. She never in all her various talks with Michael referred to Richard. She never asked what progress was made in the search for him; she never even manifested any desire to know whether the search was continued or not. Michael was encouraged to think that he had been mistaken. He began to believe that she had not cared for Richard as he had thought she had. She, poor girl, hid her wounds and made a brave show before the world. Sometimes when the thought that Richard might never return would assail her, she was frightened by the violence of her emotions; she feared even for her reason. It was a hard fight that Mary fought, with her doubts and her fears. Other people, she knew, had been called on to bear the death of dear friends or of husbands and had gone bravely through it all, and she, too, could bear the death of this one if she should have to; but the uncertainty of it all was a severe drain upon her. As the days went on Michael became much bolder in his attentions, and it was not long before Mary realized that he was making love to her. When she first made this discovery she was very angry and indignant; then she laughed. "Oh, Mr. Michael Bering," she said to herself, "you think that I cannot see all that is in your mind; but I can. And what harm can your love making do me? Go on if it amuses you." And Michael did go on; but he did not find much amusement in it. It was not long before he knew that Mary understood his intentions, but he was puzzled by her reception of them. She listened placidly to his ardent, though indirect, speeches and chose to give a commonplace meaning, and to return a commonplace answer to whatever he might say. Michael seldom blundered, he was so cool and calculating; but now he felt hurried by the uncertainty concerning Richard and by the ever-present fear of his return. He had been cautious and patient and had made some progress; he felt now he would be bold and enterprising and see if he could not make much faster progress. If the worst should happen and she should repulse him he would find some way to show her his power. "Mary," he said bluntly one night, "I never thought I could so love anyone as I have learned to love you." "Was it a hard lesson to learn?" she asked coldly. His pride was deeply wounded, but now retort was impossible and Michael never let his feelings interfere with his plans. "No," he responded, "the lesson was a very easy one. I love you." "I am very much flattered; but—but I would unlearn the lesson if I were you, I think. There are many things in this world that are not worth the knowing, really not worth the knowing." "Mary, is it right to speak so to a man who tells you that he loves you?" "Perhaps not—I do not know." "But you must answer me. Do you love me? Can you love me?" "Are you serious, Michael Bering?" "Yes." "Then I must tell you seriously I do not love you. I cannot." Michael was angry. He was angry at Mary; he was angry with himself that he should have spoken too early. Even in his anger he was conscious of the blunder he had made and he felt certain that had he given her time she would have come to regard him if not with affection, at least with friendliness enough to listen to his suit patiently. Then, he thought, he might rely upon her good sense, upon his opportunities. All the circumstances would then have favored him. Now he must fight; he must struggle hard. In a few minutes, however, he regained his composure. "Mary," he said, "why do you treat me so?" "Do I treat you badly?" "Yes." Mary smiled. Michael's air of meekness and of injury seemed to her a great pretence, as indeed it was. But she would not quarrel; indeed, she was not angry or disposed to be. It was all too absurd. "Surely, I do not treat you badly," she said, "when I tell you truly that I do not love you."

"Perhaps not," he answered, "but your manner, Mary. Why should my love move you to contempt?" "Ah, Michael, you are mistaken. Your love would not so move me." "My love would not! Then what does? Your manner is unmistakable." "Come, Michael, let us forget all this. Let us be friends." But Michael would not retreat even now when this chance was offered him. He was de-



Richard was about to fall upon him.

termined now to force the fighting as he could. "Mary," he said vehemently, "but think. Consider as my wife your future, your position would be secure. I can give you all that you can ask for." She looked at him in astonishment. She was on the point of saying to him that whatever would be given would be given by her but she restrained herself. "Everything will be yours," Michael went on. "You will be happy. And you decline, why? Because of a girl's childish love for a man who can never claim her. Ah, you need not deny it. You were about to, I can see." "I was about to deny nothing." "Your loyalty is foolish. Richard may never return. If he does he can never dare to claim you." "Michael," she began calmly, but her calmness cost her a great effort, "Michael, I decline to discuss either Richard or my love with you. You have chosen to speak of your love; I have listened. You have chosen to ask me to be your wife. I have declined. Let that be ended between us. Have you thought that I had ceased to care for Richard? Shall I tell you? I love him now and I shall forever." She waited a few minutes, for she would not go while, by any chance, her going might seem running away; but as he continued silent she rose and left him. The effort at restraint had been a hard one and a severe strain upon her and she barely reached her own room before she broke down and cried bitterly. As she left him Michael was at first disposed to detain her; but he hardly dared to try. "Well," he said to himself, "stronger spirits than yours have been broken. We shall see what can be done." For a short time matters seemed to Mary to go on between Michael and herself about as they had before. Michael made no further reference to the subject of his love. She believed that he had seen how useless it was to pursue the affair further and she tried her best to show him that she thought no more about it. Michael continued to come and go as he had before; but he no longer consulted with her upon business matters; soon he ceased to trouble himself to be even interesting. Gradually his visits became less and less frequent. It seemed to be his plan now to let Mary discover for herself how different would be her life without his attention and devotion, to realize how great had been her dependence upon him for diversion and pleasure. To Mary this change was very welcome. She had enjoyed, it is true, the drives and many of her conversations with Michael; but she preferred his indifference to his love, utter neglect to too great attention. Michael had not put Mary in possession of any large part of the fortune to which she was entitled. He had so arranged that whenever she needed money she had had to ask him for it. This had not so far been unpleasant to her; but now the sums given her by Michael were much smaller than she had been accustomed to receiving. Although this seemed strange to her, at first she thought it was mere inadvertence on the part of Michael; that it was merely accidental; but as it happened again and again she was soon convinced that Michael meant to show her some of his power. Now, too, he began to exhibit some interest in her expenditure; he asked her why she needed so much money and what she did with it. She dreaded

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A Vow Well Broken



"So you have ceased to love me, Millie?" The words were uttered in a low, sad voice that seemed like the wail of a broken heart. They came from a tall, powerfully built young man who stood by a rustic stile, on which a young girl was seated, within a mile of the mining village of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. It was a soft, balmy afternoon in early June, and the birds in the trees were twittering away their songs full of rich melody, the sun was shining brightly, and all nature seemed as if in holiday attire, and in corresponding good humor. But a dark cloud had suddenly fallen over the life of Joe Ashworth the young miner, and he saw no sunshine, heard no birds, and could not appreciate nature's beautiful garb at all that afternoon.

"Oh Joe, don't look at me like that! I haven't ceased to like you Joe, I never shall, but—"

"But someone else has come between us, you mean, someone whom you love better than a fool like me?"

"Oh, pity me Joe, I can't help it, indeed I can't! I like you, just as I like my brother Ben, but indeed we must not think of marriage, I could not make you a good wife!"

"And why not, Millie? You and I have been courting for a year now. You have been the light and sunshine of my life, the one sweet vision that brightened my labor in the mines. We have rambled together in the spring, summer, fall and winter. I love you deeply, passionately, and you led me to believe that you returned my love in part. But in the last three weeks you have become a changed girl, you no longer care for me as you did, and I want to know why, I must know why!"

Millie Sherwood lifted her soft blue eyes streaming with tears to his, and clasped one of his brawny hands in hers tightly.



"And why not, Millie?"

"Forgive me, Joe," she cried, as the bitter tears welled forth unrestrained. "If I led you to believe that I loved you in that light, I was wrong. I always liked you, and found you bright and cheerful company. I found you unlike most of the rough miners—different in speech, gentlemanly in manner. I have been proud of your friendship because I admire your manly character."

"You are making the wound deeper now, Millie. I want to know from your own lips, right here, why you have changed towards me of late. There is a reason, and I want to know it now!"

The young man spoke fiercely, bitterly, and the dark clouds of anger had settled upon his usually frank and open forehead. The girl sank exhausted into the rustic seat beside the stile.

It was unquestionably a hard experience for Joe Ashworth. He came to Pittsburgh four years previously from the far West and almost immediately obtained employment at the North Carroll mine. He was a steady, studious worker, and when his day's labors were over, instead of spending his spare time and money in the saloon, he occupied himself in reading and educating himself in mining and engineering matters. He rapidly became popular with his employers, and before he had been with them a year, was promoted to foreman engineer. He had often been invited to Mr. Sherwood's, the Superintendent's house, and while there met his daughter Millie, with whom he promptly fell in love. To do him justice it must be stated that from Millie's manner of treating him, always accepting him as an escort to parties, or in long rambles through the woods, he really thought she looked favorably on his suit. She meant no harm, poor girl. She had found Ashworth a very entertaining fellow, and it is possible that she might at one time have had the thought of accepting him for a lover, but such a subject had never been mentioned between them until that morning, when Joe had precipitated matters by asking her to be his wife.

Millie had dried her eyes, and was looking up at Joe Ashworth meekly as she spoke.

"I am heart broken, Joe, to think this should happen, but I must tell you the whole truth. Before I met you at all there was a half understood engagement between me and George Newbold. He went away to Pittsburgh to study surveying, and only came back last week. That is why I have refused to go out with you since, until this afternoon, and I would not have come now only I did not want you to feel hurt by my continued refusals. Oh Joe, Joe, for God's sake don't look like that at me! I would have told you before had it been necessary!"

The human countenance had disappeared from Joe Ashworth. There was the face of a demon there instead as he clenched his fists and hissed through his teeth.

"Had it been necessary! Of course it was not! You no doubt thought it was fun for a girl to play with a heart like mine while engaged to another, and tell me, when I had given my heart and soul to you, that you would have discouraged me had it been necessary? I have loved you with the love of a fervid and sincere heart. You have seen it, you have known it all along, and now you tell me you were engaged over two years, and to George Newbold too, the man who has been insulting me persistently these last few days?"

"Insulting you, Joe?"

"Aye, insulting me, and now I know the reason, but by the heavens above no man on earth shall rob me of the one love of my lifetime without paying dearly for his action! And I swear here, solemnly, in the sight of heaven, before the sun goes down I will have George Newbold's life!"

Millie started up in dread, and caught him by the arm.

"Oh Joe, don't talk like that, you'll drive me crazy! George is not to blame—if anyone, it is I. But I never thought you had learned to care for me like this. Oh if I only had told you before!"

Joe Ashworth was about to reply, when suddenly the ground beneath them trembled, and there came from away down the valley the report of a loud explosion. The faces of both assumed a look of alarm and Joe said huskily:

"There's trouble in one of the mines, Millie, I guess I had better go as they might need my assistance."

"I'll go too," replied Millie in a scared kind of way.

"Hurry, we better run, Joe!"

"Yes, but don't tire yourself. I don't like to leave you alone, but if you feel like getting out of breath just stop and sit down. I hope it may prove nothing serious, but, though off duty, you know I ought to be there in an emergency."

Not another word was said for the next ten minutes. Joe had taken Millie's right hand and together they ran at a moderate pace until they reached the outskirts of the village. There were groups of awe-stricken people in the street.

"What is the matter?" asked Joe of the first persons they met.

"Explosion of fire damp in the old Eight Lode, Mr. Ashworth," replied an old and crippled man, who himself had lost an arm and leg in an explosion.

"The Eight Lode? why there's nobody down there," exclaimed Joe. "The mine hasn't been opened for more than eight months!"

"But two men went down this morning, sir, for the first time since the closing, Mr. Newbold and Tom Dixon, in order to survey the different leads!"

"Mr. Newbold!"

Before she had half repeated the words, Millie was flying along in the direction of Eight Lode, whose mouth was only a furlong distant. It was all Joe could do to keep up with her now, she ran like a hare, turning neither to the right nor left.

At the mouth of the pit there was a great crowd of people, but they gave way before Joe and Millie.

"How is it?" asked Ashworth, of the two men in charge of the cage.

"Mr. Dixon's body has just been brought up, dead," replied one. "We could find no trace of Mr. Newbold and the smoke down there is suffocating, he must be dead too."

"Won't you go down again and try to find him," asked Millie piteously. "He may have fainted or be only injured. Please try again, and you will be well rewarded for your trouble!"

"No use, Miss," replied the miner shaking his head. "Only a madman would venture down there until the atmosphere is clearer. At the bottom is certain death!"

"Oh my God!" she moaned in agony, "is there no help for him? Must he die like that without assistance? Is there not one among you strong men who would try to save a comrade at the point of death? Rubens, Jones, Marston will you not at least go down and try to find his body?"

"We're sorry, Miss, of course," replied Bill Marston, "but then you know, Miss, as fellows have got families of our own, and we can't afford to run no risks on their account, whatever we feel like doing on our own."

There came a stoney look of despair over Millie's blanched face as Marston spoke. Her eyes wandered round that group of men until it rested on the face of Joe Ashworth. He had been fighting with himself for the last minute—the jealous lover with the upright man, and that look from Millie decided the fight—the upright man had won!

Without a second's hesitation he jumped into the cage and told the men to lower him into the pit. It was at this juncture that Mr. Sherwood came up.

"Where are you going Joe?" he asked in amazement.

"To try and save Newbold sir, I think I know the mine better than any man around, and if it is possible to save his life, why I'll do it—for your daughter's sake!"

Before anyone could stop him, before Millie could breathe a word of thanks he was gone—gone down into the dark depths of the smoking pit, whose bottom was said to be certain death. Fully five hundred feet of rope was paid out before the windlass stopped and then the spectators knew that at any rate the cage had reached the bottom, and from a few moments vibration of the rope it was evident that Joe was getting out.

One hundred pairs of eyes watched that rope intently, eager to catch the slightest sign from below, but no gaze was riveted so intently, no heart alternated so wildly between hope and despair as that of Millie Sherwood. Minutes passed, which seemed like hours to the watchers, but still no signal came from the bottom of the pit. Superintendent Sherwood stood by his daughter and tried to console her.

"If there's any earthly chance at all of saving George, that brave fellow Ashworth will succeed," he said. "He knows every nook and corner down there better than men who have worked in the mine three times as long as he has. Haul away there quick! the rope is moving!"

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were lifted out tenderly and laid on the grass where the two village doctors were waiting.

Joe Ashworth opened his eyes after drawing a deep breath of fresh air and called, "Millie!" She turned from the other figure, Newbold's, and Joe whispered as he pressed her hand:

"I told you I would take his life! I have taken it now from the jaws of death, and I give it back to you! He is all right. I found him in the gallery where the air was pretty cool. He'll revive bye and bye!"

"God bless you, Joe, for your noble sacrifice!" murmured Millie, as she pressed Ashworth's hand in her own and wept tears of joy.

The doctors agreed that Newbold would soon revive with the aid of tonics, and when Joe had recovered himself sufficiently he was lifted on the shoulders of strong men and carried, amid great cheering, around the village. But none of his admirers knew the extent of his sacrifice, or the weary heart load of bitterness he carried behind a smiling exterior.

Newbold never recovered sufficiently to attend to his duties, but, on the contrary, incipient consumption, which, it seems, he inherited, was accelerated by his accident, and in six months carried him off. But when he learned from Millie's own lips of the magnanimous conduct of Ashworth, he sent for him, and humbly begged his pardon for the insults he had offered him. And before he died, he made both Millie and Joe confess their love for each other in his presence, and exacted a promise that they would marry within three months of his death.

That was five years ago, and now Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Ashworth live in great style in Pittsburgh and neither have found marriage a failure.

J. S. G.

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\$2,500.00 IN PRIZES A pathway to fortune here—CROSS it not, for if you do, I'll have cause to fear. BEAR this in mind, no cause to rue. To the first person giving correct answer to the above rebus we will give, in cash, \$100; to the second, \$100; to the third, \$75; to the fourth, \$50; to each of the next fifteen, \$25.00 each. Answers must reach us on or before August 10th. With your answer send 10c in postage stamps for a 16 page Monthly Paper. Our August issue will announce the result of the contest, with names and addresses of the winners. In addition to the above we shall give a Warranty Deed for 1000 Choice House or Business Lots near New York City, worth over \$7,500. Write address plainly and enclose subscription money to HOUSEHOLD COMPANION, 29 Beekman St. N.Y.

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COMMENTS ON COOKING.

DEAR COUSINS:

We have had a good many miscellaneous recipes lately, and I propose that this month we devote the column entirely to cake. I have a good many cake recipes on hand, and you will have a chance to compare them, and pick out the best. Next time we must begin on summer fruits, canning, preserving, etc. How quickly the time comes around! It does not seem possible that all those cans of good things which you put up last year have been emptied; but the rows of empty jars on the pantry shelves tell the story. I hope that this will be as good a year for fruit as 1891 was, and that sugar will be as cheap.

Our first recipe is for

COCAO-NUT COOKIES.

2 cups sugar, 1 cup butter, 2 eggs, 1-2 a cocoa-nut, grated, flour; roll thin and bake.

JELLY ROLL.

3 eggs, 1 cup sugar, 1 teaspoon cream tartar, 1-2 teaspoon soda, 1 cup flour; pour it thin into a baking pan, bake slowly; spread jelly over it and roll up; wrap it in a cloth.

WEDDING CAKE.

1 lb. butter, 1 lb. sugar, 10 eggs, 1 lb. flour, 3 lbs. currants, 2 lbs. stoned raisins, 1-2 lb. citron, 1 nutmeg, mace and cinnamon. Rub the butter and sugar together; when light, add the yolks, then the whites of the eggs, which must be beaten separately. Then put in nearly all the flour, keeping out enough to dust the raisins, cut the citron in slices, (put it in as you put the cake in the pan.) After mixing the fruit in the cake, grease a pan and line it with buttered paper; put the cake in and bake in a rather slow oven, as it bakes easily. When done, take it out of the pan, paper and all. The next day put it in a tin cake-box and cover tightly.

Mrs. NELLIE JACK.

AUNT ELIZA CAKE.

1-1-2 cup sugar, 2 cups flour, 1-2 cup butter, 1-2 cup sweet milk, 2 teaspoons baking powder, 2 eggs.

SPONGE CAKE.

2 tumblers flour, 1 tumbler sugar, 4 eggs, 1-2 teaspoon cream tartar, soda size of a pea, butter size of an egg.

Mrs. M. V. GARNON.

CHOCOLATE LAYER CAKE.

Whites of 3 eggs, 2 cups sugar, 1 cup sweet milk, 2 large tablespoons butter, 3 cups flour, 2 heaping teaspoons baking powder. Bake in 3 layers and spread chocolate icing between.

Along with cake would naturally go a recipe for

BOILED ICING.

1-1-2 cups sugar, 2 tablespoons water; let it boil on the back of the stove until waxy or stringy, then pour it into the whites of 2 eggs, well beaten.

Mrs. H. P. W.

QUICK CAKE.

3 eggs, beaten separately, 1 cup flour, 1 cup sugar, 2 teaspoons baking powder; when well mixed, add 2 tablespoons boiling water.

STRIPED CAKE.

WHITE PART.—1-2 cup butter, 1 cup white sugar, 1-2 cup sweet milk, whites of 3 eggs beaten stiff, 2 cups flour, 2 teaspoons baking powder.

DARK PART.—1 cup brown sugar, 1 tablespoon molasses, 1-2 cup butter, 1-2 cup sour milk, 1-2 teaspoon soda, 2 cups flour, 1 tablespoon each of cinnamon and allspice.

GINGER CAKES.

Into 1 quart of molasses stir 3 even table spoons of soda and 1-2 of ginger; stir well, then add 1 pint of buttermilk and 1 pint of lard. Make into a soft dough, roll thin and bake quick.

Mrs. LOVE.

CUP CAKE.

Whites of 3 eggs, 1 cup white sugar, 1-3 cup of butter, 1 cup sweet milk, 2 teaspoons baking powder. Use whites of 2 eggs for frosting.

SOFT GINGERBREAD.

1 cup molasses, 2 tablespoons butter, stir in flour as thick as you can in the molasses and butter; 1 tablespoon ginger, 1 teaspoon soda, 1 cup boiling water on soda; eat while warm.

MARBLE CAKE.

WHITE PART.—Whites of 4 eggs, 1-2 cup butter, 1 cup white sugar, 1 cup sweet milk, 2 teaspoons baking powder, flour to thicken.

DARK PART.—Yolks of 4 eggs, 1-2 cup molasses, 1-2 cup cold water, 1 teaspoon allspice, 1 teaspoon soda, flour to thicken.

COFFEE CAKE.

1 egg, 1 cup brown sugar, 1-2 cup molasses, 1-2 cup shortening, 1-2 cup raisins, 1-2 cup coffee, 1 teaspoon each of cinnamon, allspice and cloves, 1 teaspoon soda, flour to thicken.

ETHEL POLMANTEER, Watervliet, Mich.

POUND CAKE.

1-1-2 cups sugar, 1 cup butter, 10 eggs, 1-2 teaspoon baking powder. Rub the flour and butter to a cream, beat eggs and sugar together, and add the baking powder.

MAY BUTTERY.

GINGER SNAPS.

1 cup molasses, 1-2 cup lard, 1 teaspoon soda, salt and ginger to taste; mix hard and bake quickly.

DOLLY VARDEN CAKE.

1 egg, 1 cup sugar, 1 tablespoon butter, 1 tea-spoon milk or 3-4 cup water (not both), 2 cups flour, 3 teaspoons baking powder, 1-2 a grated nutmeg. Bake 2 layers of this mixture, leaving enough in the dish for another layer; to this add 1 tablespoon molasses, 1 tablespoon flour, 1 teaspoon each of cloves, cinnamon and allspice, and 1-2 cup of chopped raisins or currants.

Mrs. H. M. SEEVERS, Hillman, Mich.

I have lost the name of the sender of the two following recipes but return thanks for them just the same, and am sorry that I cannot give credit where credit is due.

FIG CAKE.

WHITE PART.—1 cup sugar, whites of 6 eggs, 1-2 cup butter, 1-2 cup sweet milk, 1-2 cups flour, 3 teaspoons baking powder.

YELLOW PART.—1 cup sugar, yolks of 6 eggs, 1-2 cup butter, 1-2 cup sweet milk, 1-2 cups flour, 3 teaspoons baking powder, 24 figs cut thin and put on the layers after they are in the pans, before baking. Put together with icing.

STEEL CAKE.

1 cup butter, 2 cups sugar, 1 egg, 1 cup sweet milk, flour enough to mix. Frost with the white of 1 egg and cinnamon.

FRUIT CAKE.

1 cup butter, 1 cup brown sugar, 1 cup molasses, 1 cup sweet milk, 3 cups flour, 4 eggs, 1-2 teaspoons cream tartar, 1 teaspoon soda, 2 lbs.

stoned raisins, 1 nutmeg. Will keep 4 to 6 months.

SNOWBALL CAKE.

1 cup sugar, 1-2 cup butter, 1 cup sweet milk, 2 cups flour, 2 teaspoons baking powder, whites of 3 eggs.

BRIDGEPORT CAKE.

2 cups sugar, 1 cup butter, 3 1-2 cups flour, 1 cup sweet milk, 2 cups currants, 1-2 lb. citron, 2 teaspoons baking powder, 1 lemon.

Crackers may not come exactly under the head of cake, but a recipe for them has been called for, so we will have these.

HOMEMADE CRACKERS.

1 quart flour, 1 cup lard, 2 teaspoons baking powder. Mix thoroughly, adding 2 teaspoons salt, with cold water or sweet milk to a stiff dough. Roll and cut into cracker form; prick each side with a fork.

MARY E. HUDGEN.

MOLASSES CAKE.

1 cup molasses, 4 tablespoons shortening, 1 teaspoon ginger, mix hard with flour; then take 1 teaspoon soda dissolved in 1 cup boiling water, stir 10 minutes and bake in a moderate oven.

Mrs. O. WESCOTT, Cazenovia, N. Y.

NEW YORK COOKIES.

1 cup sugar, 1 egg, 1 cup shortening, flavor with vanilla, add flour enough to roll; bake in a hot oven.

Cousin LIZZIE.

CAKE WITHOUT EGGS.

1 cup sweet milk, 1 cup sugar, 2 tablespoons butter, 2 cups flour, 2 teaspoons baking powder.

LUCILLA H.

PLAIN FRUIT CAKE.

1 cup sugar, 1 cup molasses, 1 tablespoon each of cinnamon, nutmeg and cloves, 1 cup chopped raisins, 1 cup chopped dried apples, 1 cup sweet milk, 2 cups flour, 1-2 cup butter, 2 eggs, 2 teaspoons baking powder.

A. I. B.

COOKIES.

2-3 cup melted butter and lard, 1 egg, 2 cups sugar, 1-2 cup sour milk, 1 teaspoon soda, flour enough to roll well.

LAYER CAKE.

1 egg, 1 cup sugar, 1 cup sweet milk, 1-2 tea-spoon soda in milk, 3 tablespoons melted butter, 2 cups flour, 1 teaspoon cream tartar in flour. Bake in 2 layers, and when cold put on the following frosting:

CARAMEL FROSTING.

1 cup sugar, 1-2 cup sweet milk, boil 7 minutes, stirring all the time. Spread on the cake. Have 2 squares of chocolate melted (by putting them in a saucer and setting them over the tea-kettle); spread this over the white frosting and put the layers together.

SPONGE CAKE.

3 eggs, 2-3 cup sugar, 1-2 cup water, 1-2 teaspoon soda, 1 teaspoon cream tartar in 1-1-2 cups flour. Flavor with lemon.

NELLIE ADAMS.

FEATHER CAKE.

1 egg, 1 cup sour milk, 1 cup sugar, 2 large spoons butter, 2 cups flour, 2 teaspoons cream tartar, 1 teaspoon soda, flavor to taste.

Mrs. R. D. N.

I think you must all be sweet enough by this time, so we will have no more recipes this month. Many thanks to all who have contributed.

Cousin CERES,
(Care of COMFORT.)

MONEY PLENTY AT LAST.

Dear Readers:—I went West determined to make money fast; invested in real estate to be safe, got in debt, gave a mortgage, times hard, crops failed, property sold for taxes and interest. I left Kansas and started East, met an agent plating jewelry and tableware who claimed to make \$10 per day. I secured the address of H. F. Delno & Co., of Columbus, Ohio, and ordered a \$5 plating machine. I made \$23 the first week plating and sold two platers, making \$8 profit. Many readers may be benefited by this short description of three years of tribulation.

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BUSY BEES WITH

WHAT a lovely morning, Queen Bee! It is too pleasant to stay indoors, and we will have the meeting out on the porch, among the flowers and birds. Tell Cousin Drone to bring out all the low chairs and rockers, and some rugs, and to hang the hammock to that apple-tree close by. I see the Bees coming already, another chair, Cousin, and one of those little tables; we are going to have a full meeting. Good morning, good morning! I am glad to see you all. You must have had a very pleasant trip this beautiful day. Make yourselves comfortable on the stoop, while I fetch the box of needles and hooks; try this willow chair, Mrs. Packard, you will find it very easy. Girls, if there are not seats enough, I can have more brought out.

"We are all right, don't trouble about us," says one merry maiden; "we can sit on the edge of the stoop. Girls, now what have you brought this time? lots of pretty things, I hope. For my part, I did not have a thing in this line that was new, and so I would not bring anything."

"Well, it is hard to find anything very new in the way of fancy work," remarks Clara Wohl of Fleetwood, Pa. "I have an edging pattern which I thought some of you might like to try, so I put that in my bag as the best contribution I could make to the meeting. It is called

POINT LACE.

1st row.—Make a ch of 10 sts, 3 dc in 5th st of ch, ch 1, 3 dc in same (this forms a sh), 1 dc in last st of ch.

2d row.—Ch 6, sh in sh, ch 2, 1 dc in ch of 4 sts.

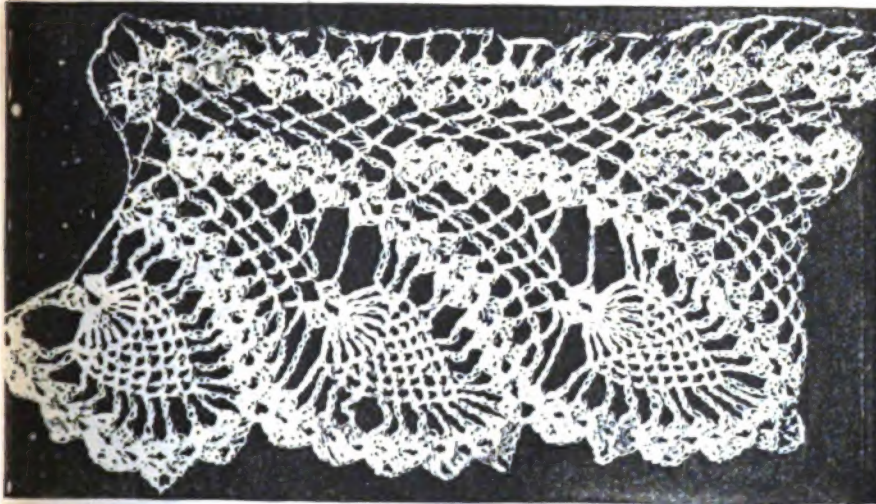
3d row.—Ch 5, 1 dc in top of 1st dc, ch 2, sh in sh, ch 3, 1 dc in 4th st of ch.

4th row.—Ch 6, sh in sh, ch 2, 1 dc in last dc of sh, ch 2, 1 dc in top of next dc, ch 2, 1 dc in 3d st of ch.

5th row.—Ch 5, 1 dc in top of 1st dc, 2 dc in ch of 2, 1 dc in dc in ch of 2, 1 dc in dc, ch 2, sh in sh, ch 3, 1 dc in 4th st of ch.

6th row.—Ch 6, sh in sh, ch 2, 1 dc in last dc of sh, ch 2, 1 dc in next dc, 6 dc in top of next dc, ch 2, 1 dc in 3d st of ch.

7th row.—Ch 5, 1 dc in 1st dc, ch 2, 1 dc in 4th dc, ch 2, 1 dc in last dc, ch 2, 1 dc in dc, ch 2, 1 dc in 1st dc of shell, ch 2, sh in sh, ch 3, 1 dc in 4th st of ch.



PINEAPPLE LACE.

8th row.—Ch 6, sh in sh, * ch 2, 1 dc between ch of 2, * repeat from * to * 4 times, ch 2, 5 dc with ch of 2 between in top of ch of 5, * ch 2, 1 dc between ch of 2, * repeat 4 times. Here you must join to preceding scallop if you have more than one one.

9th row.—Ch 3, loosely fasten on top of 1 dc, ch 3, fasten in top of 2 dc, proceed this way round the scallop till at the last dc in ch of 2, ch 3, sh in sh, ch 3, 1 dc in 4th st of ch.

10th row.—Ch 6, sh in sh, ch 2, 1 dc in ch of 3. Repeat from 3d row.

"Very pretty, cousin Clara," says Kate Caffry of Hillsborough, Mo.; "and now will you try a pattern that I like very much, a variety of Pineapple Lace which I think is different from anything you have had."

PINEAPPLE LACE.

Terms used:—Sh, shell; sc, single crochet; ch, chain; tr, treble; 1 tr, long treble; st, stitch; dc, double crochet.

Make a ch of 36 sts.

1st row.—Sh (3 tr, ch 1, 3 tr) in 6th st of foundation ch, ch 6, sh in sh, ch 5, 1 dc in 2nd st, ch 3, sh in 32d st, 1 tr in 36th, ch 4, turn, the dcs are all under the loops of 3 or 4 chs and only 1 sh, in each sh of the following rows.

2d row.—Sh, 1 ch, 1 dc under 1st ch, ch 5, 1 dc under 5 ch, 5 ch, sh, 5 ch, 10 extra long trs in next sh, 5 ch, sh, 3 ch, turn.

3d row.—Sh, 5 ch, * 1 dc, 1st long tr, 3 ch, 1 dc, * repeat 8 times, 5 ch, sh, 5 ch, 1 dc, 5 ch, 3 ch, sh, 1 ch, 1 tr, ch 4, turn.

4th row.—Sh, 1 ch, * 1 dc, 5 ch, * repeat 3 times, sh, ch 4, 1 dc, * 3 ch, 1 dc, * repeat 7 times, 4 ch, sh, 3 ch, turn.

5th row.—Sh, 4 ch, 1 dc, * 3 ch, 1 dc, repeat from * 6 times, 4 ch, sh, 5 ch, 1 dc, 3 ch, sh in 2d loop of 5 ch, 3 ch, 1 dc, 3 ch, sh, ch 1, tr 1, ch 4, turn.

6th row.—Sh, 1 ch, 1 dc, 5 ch, 1 dc, 1 ch, sh, 1 ch, 1 dc, 5 ch, 1 dc, sh, ch 4, 1 dc, * ch 3, 1 dc, repeat * 5 times, 4 ch, sh, 3 ch, turn.

7th row.—Sh, 4 ch, 1 dc, * 3 ch, 1 dc, * repeat 4 times, 4 ch, sh, 5 ch, 1 dc, 5 ch, 1 dc, 3 ch, sh, 3 ch, 1 dc, 3 ch, sh, 1 ch, 1 tr, ch 4, turn.

8th row.—Sh, 1 ch, 1 dc, 3 ch, 1 dc, 1 ch, sh, 1 ch, * 1 dc, 5 ch, repeat from * 3 times, sh, 4 ch, 1 dc, * 3 ch, 1 dc, repeat from * 3 times, 4 ch, sh, 3 ch, turn.

9th row.—Sh, 4 ch, 1 dc, 3 ch, 1 dc, 3 ch, 1 dc, 4

ch, sh, * 5 ch, 1 dc, repeat from * 3 times, 3 ch, sh, 3 ch, 1 dc, 3 ch, sh, 1 ch, 1 tr, 4 ch, turn.

10th row.—Sh, 1 ch, 1 dc, 5 ch, 1 dc, 1 ch, sh, ch 1, * 1 dc, 5 ch, repeat 4 times from * sh, 4 ch, 1 dc, 3 ch, 1 dc, 4 ch, sh, 3 ch, turn.

11th row.—Sh, 4 ch, 1 dc, 4 ch, sh, * 5 ch, 1 dc, repeat 4 times from * 3 ch, sh, ch 3, 1 dc, 3 ch, sh, 1 ch, 1 tr, 4 ch.

12th row.—Sh, 1 ch, 1 dc, 5 ch, 1 dc, 1 ch, sh, 1 ch, * 1 dc, 5 ch, repeat 5 times from * sh, ch 1, fasten with a 1 dc in 1st ch of next sh, 1 ch, turn.

13th row.—Sh, 6 ch in 3d loop of 5 ch, 6 ch, sh, 5 ch, 1 dc, 3 ch, sh, 1 ch, 1 tr, 4 ch, turn.

Repeat from 2d row for length required, the insertion for the above is made by adding the heading to lower edge of pineapple.

Before we go any farther I have a letter that I want to read from a Sister Bee who is unable to be present; and I would like to have some of the others answer it if possible.

"Will some of the Sisters please send me some samples of tatting, also directions for making mats with coffee sacks and rags."

Mrs. NELLIE ROGERS, Hot Springs, Ark.

"Requests are contagious," says Miss H. C. S., "that reminds me that I want to ask if some one will bring the directions for making a pop-corn tidy? I have wanted that for a long time."

"Yes, and I would like to have directions for knitting or crocheting a baby's hood," chimes in Mrs. Chas. McLean of Trimble, Colo. "I have come a long way this morning to ask for that."

"Not any farther than I have come, sister Bees," says a Bee from Los Angeles, Calif. "I want to ask the other Bees if they will please tell me about making some pretty inexpensive picture frames. I am a young wife and housekeeper, and am very anxious to have a cozy, cheerful little home; and I think it is very nice to make things at home for one's self. I have received much benefit from the COMFORT in regard to housekeeping and fancy work."

"Always glad to hear a word in praise of our favorite COMFORT. There, I almost forgot,

Aunt Minerva wanted me to ask the Bees if any of you could tell her where to procure a tatting shuttle. Please write her directly, if you can give the information, and she will be very grateful."

"Will you give the knitters a chance to-day?" asks Ella H. "I will tell them how to make a very pretty tidy stripe if they would like. It is called

OAK LEAF WITH ACORNS.

Cast on 36 stitches, knit across plain.

1st row.—* k 3, tto, n, * k 1, tto, k 3, n, p 1, n, k 3, tto, n, tto, k 1, n, p 1, n, k 1, tto, n, tto, k 3, tto, k 1, * k 2, tto, n, *. The 5 stitches between stars at beginning and end of row are always knit the same.

3d row.—K 1, p all but the seam sts, which k plain. K means knit plain, N narrow, T to thread over needle, P puri or seam.

"While you have the needles in your hands, just try this insertion, sister Bees, and then I will tell the girls how to make a pretty lamp-mat," says Hattie Marine of Columbus, Ky.

ROSE LEAF INSERTION.

Cast on 29 sts and knit across plain.

1st row.—S 1, k 3, o, n, k 1, o, k 1, n, p 1, n, k 1, o, twice, p 1, o, k 1, n, p 1, n, k 1, o, k 3, o, n, k 2.

2d row.—K 4, o, n, p 4, k 1, p 3, k 1, p 3, k 1, p 6, o, n, k 2.

3d row.—S 1, k 3, o, n, k 1, o, k 1, n, p 1, n, k 1, p 1, k 1, n, p 1, n, k 1, o, k 3, o, n, k 2.

4th row.—K 4, o, n, p 4, k 1, p 3, k 1, p 3, k 1, p 6, o, n, k 2.

5th row.—S 1, k 3, o, n, k 1, o, k 1, o, n, p 1, n, p 1, n, o, k 1, o, k 2, o, n, k 2.

6th row.—K 4, o, n, p 5, k 1, p 1, k 1, p 1, k 2, p 1, k 3 tog, o, k 3, o, d 3, o, n, k 2.

7th row.—S 1, k 3, o, n, k 1, o, k 5, o, k 3 tog, o, k 5, o, k 3, o, n, k 2.

8th row.—K 4, o, n, p 9, o, n, k 2. Repeat from 1st row.

Now for the lamp-mat.

ROSETTE LAMP MAT.

Materials, 1 ounce shaded green zephyr, 1-2 ounce pink, and a spool of No. 20 cotton thread.

Take a perfectly smooth stick a little larger than a lead pencil, and wind the pink zephyr 518 times around the stick; then with needle

and thread, tack the rings together before slipping off the stick. Cut from stiff paper 8 circles the size of a small-sized baking-powder can, and an equal number of circles of sheet wadding the same size; sew them together in pairs. Over each one sew the pink zephyr, sewing it round and round. Make rosettes in this way. Now take the green zephyr, cast on any number of stitches, and knit it all up, using two needles. Wash it in strong alum water, dry quickly, and ravel out. Cut a piece of cardboard the size of the bottom of the lamp and cover with dark material; sew the 8 rosettes around the edge at equal distances; sew the green between the rosettes, letting it fall down 3 inches all round, and come within 2 inches of the centre.

Is it possible that here is our friend Mrs. Kupferle from Chicago? I supposed that you would be so busy getting ready for the World's Fair that you could not stop to think of fancy work. Glad to see you; you must be sure to call in to see Aunt Minerva before you go, for I know she wants to talk over the Cousins' Reunion with you, and make some plans.

"Yes, I will surely drop into her sanctum for a short call, although my time is limited to-day. I just want to tell you all about such a lovely piece of work that I saw the other day. In fact, I made one like it myself, and every one admired it. It may be used for a photo or handkerchief case. Take a piece of common muslin 14 inches long and 9 inches wide, allow for seams. Line it with sheet wadding, then take scraps of silk and satin in pale shades and cover the muslin on one side; work in fancy stitches and designs. Line with a pretty shade of silk or soft velvet, sew together and turn. Finish with gilt bullion cord, put a bow on one corner, and a yard of ribbon for ties."

Must you leave us so soon? Well, thank you for this short visit, and the help you have given us. Now I will tell the Bees about some pretty little things I saw the other day at the house of a friend who is noted for her taste in fancy work. One was such a simple and easily made little creation that I resolved at once to make some like it for next Christmas. It was made of the small white pill-boxes used by druggists, those that pull open like a bureau drawer; six of them were fastened together in two tiers of three each, and tied with two quite wide lavender ribbons. On the end of each box was sewed a button or a hook-and-eye, to serve as an indication of its contents, and also as a handle to the tiny drawer. Altogether, it was one of the prettiest and most useful things that I have seen in a long time.

This same friend is thinking about being married "one of these fine days"; so of course she has her collection of souvenir spoons, and I want to tell you how she keeps them. For each half dozen spoons there is a separate case, made of a piece of chamois skin 12 by 9 inches. The edges are pinked, and across the narrow way of the case are fastened two strips of the chamois, pinked on each edge, an inch apart. These strips are caught down at regular intervals with bright silk, to make little divisions for the spoons. The outside of the case is decorated with gold paint in circles, half-moons, spider-webs, etc., and inside the name of the city from which each spoon came is painted above and below the straps. The case is tied by a tiny gold cord with tassels. The chamois keeps the spoons bright, and you have no idea how much prettier they look when exhibited in this dainty case.

Another article which will give my friend great pleasure in her new home is her

FRIENDSHIP TABLE COVER.

This has a centre of fine linen in a delicate cream color, and a border of canvas-weave linen. On this border her friends embroider their monograms or initials, in harmonious colors.

Good-bye, sister Bees! Try to bring something new next time if you can.

Contributions solicited for this department from the friends of COMFORT. Descriptions of new and novel fancy work especially desired. Please send a sample of edging with directions for the same. No addresses can be furnished for the contributors to this column, so it will be useless for anyone to write for them. Samples will be loaned for 5c. in stamps. Address, BUSY BEE, (Care of COMFORT Pub. Co.)

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COMMODORE VANDERBILT.

The Millionaires of New York.

THE VANDERBILTS.

Few families outside of royalty have ever been accorded the widespread publicity that has fallen to the lot of the Vanderbilts ever since the Old Commodore became a leading figure in Wall St. Every movement is faithfully chronicled in the daily press as if it concerned some reigning potentate. And why not? For money is a mightier king than the Emperor; more powerful than the Czar. His subjects dwell not in one section of the world alone, but in all sections, and prince and pauper, monarch and merchant alike yield him homage.

They are popularly supposed to be the richest family in America—and some say in the world. For all practical purposes that statement is true enough, though I presume the Standard Oil Magnates and the Astors in this country, and the Rothschilds in Europe, are probably their equals, though the properties of the Vanderbilts have vastly improved during the last decade.

The Vanderbilts have been peculiarly fortunate in having as chief adviser in their public movements a man like Chauncey Depew. He is popular with the masses and adored by the classes; few men have filled the public eye so satisfactorily as Mr. Depew. When the late Wm. H. Vanderbilt gave utterance to his celebrated remark, "The public be d—d!" he learned by a bitter and sad experience that his verbal communications to the outside world could better be made through the lips of his popular Secretary, than through himself or any other member of the family. It was a long time before the public forgot the affront put upon it by this insulting remark, and at one time public opinion was so thoroughly aroused, that a determined and almost successful attempt was made to have the State repeal the many valuable franchises granted from time to time to the Vanderbilt road. It was a trying time for the blundering farmer from Staten Island, and if the Old Commodore had not allowed his son to starve on a miserable farm until he was well up in years the son would never have made such a deplorable mistake. Even now, though the event is many years old, and its author in the grave, the remark is often quoted and always provokes a feeling of resentment. That was the time when Depew had the hardest work of his life. He managed to placate the angry legislators at Albany, and convinced many of the people that Mr. Vanderbilt had been wronged.

The present family is the third generation. The foundation of the fortune was made by Commodore Vanderbilt and had its origin in the transportation of small consignments of freight around the harbor. The first money in this direction resulted from a small row boat which the Commodore rowed himself on the shores of Staten Island where he had a farm. Even after he was many times a millionaire he kept his son the late Wm. H. Vanderbilt on the same old farm, out of which he was able to earn by dint of strictest economy about \$800 per year. Such was the life and such the business experience of a man who in one day was called upon to manage one of the wealthiest corporations and one of the greatest private fortunes that has ever fallen to the lot of a single individual. In this connection it is worthy of note that by far the greater part of the Vanderbilt millions was acquired after the Commodore was long past middle life and in fact was nearing the limit of man's usefulness. This ought to be a lesson in patience to the young men who feel discouraged because they do not realize the full extent of their ambition before they have paid the price of it in arduous waiting and weary effort.

The selection of Wm. H. Vanderbilt as the family heir was fortunate in the extreme. He possessed much of the old Commodore's shrewdness and more conservatism. The fortune had been already acquired and all that was needed to increase the bulk was careful attention to details and a determination to avoid unwise investments. Wm. H. Vanderbilt rigidly adhered to this policy and at his death bequeathed a sum nearly double what had been inherited. Like his father he selected one of his sons, Cornelius, for the main custodian of the funds and the others were given a generous share. In this



THE PUBLIC THOROUGHLY AROUSED.

respect they pattern after the Astors which is on the same plan pursued in England where the eldest son succeeds to the estate and titles while the other boys get what the will provides and no more. But the eldest son succeeds in spite of will or testament and the property thus entailed passes from father to son till the line of succession becomes extinct in which case the second son succeeds.

The present reigning member of the family, Cornelius Vanderbilt, is Chairman of the New York Central Board and Chauncey Depew is President. The presidency however is merely a position of nominal power, though the office with perquisites is worth about \$100,000 per annum. In Depew's case he represents the Vanderbilt interest and being a widely popular man is able to do much toward keeping the Vanderbilts in a proper light before the public. His wonderful diplomacy and unfailing good humor keeps the people from criticizing too harshly the doings of the great corporation. Cornelius Vanderbilt is still a young man, probably 38 years of age, and is well liked in the community in general. He is something of a philanthropist and gives much time and money toward the maintenance of reading-rooms and clubs and other things that he is actively engaged in.

Tennessee. He is worth probably one hundred and fifty millions of dollars. Personally he is tall, quite good looking, and wears little "side boards" that add much to his youthfulness. He is proving a wonderfully good man for the trusts imposed upon him and is worthy of his father's estimate. The other boys not feeling so closely the ties of business spend much of their time abroad and Wm. K. Vanderbilt has a steam yacht that takes him all over the world.

There is no question but the family is very much improved over the first generation. The long existing feud between the Astors and the Vanderbilts as to social supremacy was settled some three years ago by a great fancy dress ball given by the Vanderbilts. All New York society was agog to know whether the Astors would attend and thus set the seal of their approval on their long time rivals. The Four Hundred were in a fever of anxiety for it was known that the ball would either create a new set or be accepted by the old. The "old families" who made their money by selling bad rum to the Indians and cheating them in trading could not forget nor forgive the modest farm on Staten Island which alas exists even to-day. But the battle was fought and won. The Astors were there and the feud was ended. The Vanderbilts were finally admitted and are now of the inner circle.

It is a pleasure to add that in their domestic life no breath of scandal has ever touched the younger Vanderbilts and in their home circle there are no more devoted husbands and fathers. Each have large families and they are carefully trained by the parents themselves. Many deeds of charity are done secretly by this family of which the world knows nothing and the Sloane maternity or hospital for poor mothers is supported by their bounty, and the many buildings owned and fitted by them for the use of railroad employees are doing work of the best kind among a class who sorely need it. Cornelius Vanderbilt is quite religiously inclined and in his life time will doubtless accomplish much good.

The world is prone to deny credit to men who do good by stealth and not from their lips will the story of their charities ever be recorded. But the same spirit that actuated William H. Vanderbilt when he lent Gen. Grant \$150,000 to help him in his difficulty during the Grant and Ward failure is part of Cornelius' inheritance and he will do his share of generous works. When the crash came and Grant realized that he had unwittingly borrowed money which he could never repay his distress was keen indeed. He tried to get Mr. Vanderbilt to take it out of the proceeds of his book and insisted on giving a mortgage on the house in which he lived, but the profits were not sufficient to be of service and the old general lived in a house that he did not even own. Mr. Vanderbilt finally induced him to consider the debt cancelled in slight recognition of his services to the country and the old general's last days were made pleasanter by this unexpected kindness.



VANDERBILTS FIRST BOAT.

There may be something more yet to write about the Vanderbilt charities. They are not bad people to have in charge of so much money. They spend lavishly, build great houses everywhere, and keep their money constantly in circulation among the people who need it most.

HASTINGS.

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All bell metal; made under two patents. Will last longer, play louder, softer and sweeter than any other mouth organ ever made, and the ONLY ONE made entirely of metal. Can easily be taken apart and cleaned. Has the silvery tone of a bell and will sell on sight. **AGENTS WANTED.** Money made easy and swift. Send 50 cents and receive solid silverine sample. Address **LAWRENCE, COOPER & BRADHUR, Patentees and Mfrs., 1169 West Taylor Street, CHICAGO, ILL.**

FREE SILVER SPOONS We will give any lady One Dozen Silver Plated Tea Spoons of extra quality, warranted to wear, who will sell among her friends one dozen boxes of "Star Pills" at 25 cents per box. Cures Headache, Constipation, Nervousness and all disorders of the Liver, Stomach and Bowels. **NO MONEY IN ADVANCE.** We send the Medicine to you post paid, when sold you return the amount, \$3.00, to us and we send the spoons. If you sell but half a doz. we give you half a doz. spoons. If you can't sell medicine we take it back. **We take all the risk.** I. M. Association, 265 Dearborn St., Chicago, Ill.

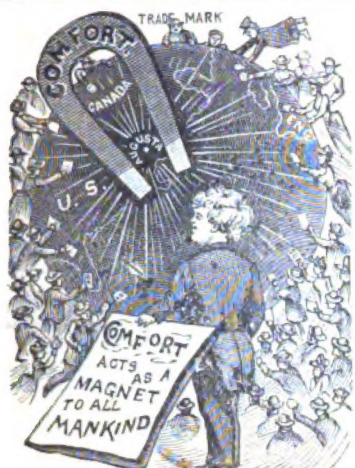
FREE Send photo or picture of any member of your family and we will make one of our fine 1/4 life size Crayon Portraits absolutely free, or forfeit \$1.00. Provided you exhibit it as our work, and send 50c., with photo, to cover cost of packing and transportation charges. No other conditions. We deliver portrait to you all charges prepaid. You buy the frame where you choose. We have testimonials from every state and refer to any bank in Chicago, address, **The ARTIST'S UNION, 321 Wabash Ave., Chicago, Ill.**

FREE TO MEN, a useful card. Send stamped envelope to H. FRANK, 509 5d Avenue, N. Y. City.

Greatest Historical Adventure Book Published. **WILD HEROES OF THE SEAS** Lives and Daring Exploits of Pirates, Buccaneers, Sea-Rovers, Marooners, Corsairs, Filibusters, Ocean-Robbers, Outlaws, Dare-Devil Freebooters, Bold Rogues and Plunderers of the Seas over the whole world. Newest, most exciting & fast-selling book out. **200 Large Engravings.** who mean business. Book beggars boys and mere curiosity, keep off. **Planet Book Co., Box 7004, St. Louis or Philadelphia**

ONLY \$1 **ELECTRIC ENGINE.** Electricity the most wonderful and prevalent force in nature, demonstrated as a motive power within the space of 6 inches and at the cost of only ONE DOLLAR. A real and practical Electric MOTOR, complete with battery and sufficient materials to run at a speed of 1200 revolutions a minute for 75 hours; for 21. This is not a catch-penny engine but one scientifically made in wood box, complete and guaranteed. By Express \$1.00; By Mail \$5c. extra for postage. New 64 p. Ill. Catalogue of over 1000 necessary articles, FREE. **R. H. INGERSOLL & BRO. 65 Cortlandt St., N. Y. City**

\$6.95 **FREE** **TO EXAMINE** Ladies' or Gents' size. An all American watch, both guaranteed to keep the best of time or money refunded. Beautifully engraved hunting case, stem-winder and set, guaranteed by the manufacturer to be made of two plates of SOLID GOLD over composition metal and guaranteed to wear with ordinary use for many years, and to stand all acid tests. For a fascinating watch this has no equal, elegantly engraved and not to be surpassed in beauty or workmanship by any, however high in price, when fitted with a high grade adjusted genuine American jeweled stem-wind movement, whether you want a watch that will not only give perfect time but a life's service. Can you get any genuine guaranteed watch at this price? This offer is the first ever advertised for a genuine all American guaranteed case with reliable movement of this grade for less than \$20.00. We are sending out an A1 class of goods. If your common sense does not teach you that we could not afford to pay for this advertisement unless we were doing so, anything we will say will not matter. We are inundated with orders from people (simple curiosity mongers) who have not the remotest intention of purchase, and to protect ourselves in an infinitesimal measure from such triflers, we ask you to send only 10 cents, either in coin or postage stamps with your order for the watch referred to in this advertisement (not as a "guarantee of good faith" but as a voucher that you will not pay for this advertisement unless we are doing so, anything we will say will not matter. 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SUBSCRIPTIONS are entered on our books as soon as received, and are always dated from the current issue, unless otherwise ordered.

POSTAGE to all parts of the United States and Canada is prepaid by the publishers.

CHANGE of address. When ordering address of paper changed, be sure to give former as well as new address. We cannot find your name on our books unless you do.

PAYERS are only sent up to time paid for in advance. Due notice given upon expiration of subscriptions.

REMITTANCES may be made by Express or P. O. Money Order, Postal Note, Registered Letter, or Draft on Boston or New York.

Postage stamps taken for small amounts.

IN WRITING be sure to give Name, Post Office, County, and State correctly in every letter, no matter how often you write.

A limited number of Advertisements accepted. Rates furnished on application.

QUITE RIGHT TOO.

The preacher visited a school

To catechise the boys,

And point out every golden rule

Which Christian man employs

To earn the good will of his kind,

To prosper in the land.

And happiness and comfort find

Almost at his command.

"Tis not without a struggle boys

That man obtains his ease,

Nor without striving he enjoys

Those worldly goods which please,

And who, that sees what he has gained

Can tell what he has lost?

Who, seeing comfort he's obtained

Knows what that comfort cost?"

And then the small boy of the class

Raised up his hand with speed,

"Please sir," he said, "don't further pass—

I wish to speak indeed.

Your question may much thought arouse

But I can answer here,

For we get "Comfort" at our house

For 25 cents a year!"

J. S. G.

RING NO. 101.



Is truly an elegant affair. The setting is composed of Gold and Silver wire twisted, making an attractive contrast, while the beautiful Alaskan Diamond, nestling snugly in the coils shoots a radiance we can but too poorly portray here. Very pretty for lady or gent.

Given free to any one sending 2 yearly subscriptions to COMFORT at 25 cents each. If you are not already a subscriber you can count as one.

MORSE & CO., Augusta, Maine.

IMPROVED POCKET BIRD WARBLER.



Within the past few years dozens of different articles have been offered for sale, by which, as asserted, an imitation of the notes of a bird could be produced. Some of these were worthless, the remainder required such an amount of practice that but few persons were ever able to master them, and these few were hardly repaid for the labor expended.

The Improved Pocket Bird Call or Warbler is the only article of the kind offered for sale which can be at once operated by any one, and by which, after five or ten minutes' practice, the notes of any bird can be perfectly imitated. It is not to be placed in the mouth like many other "Bird Calls," "Prairie Whistles," etc., but it is operated by simply turning one end, at the same time pressing the two parts of which it is composed slightly together.

A great deal of fun may be had with this Bird Warbler. You can get a room full of people at work searching for a concealed bird, and can pretend to assist in the hunt yourself, at the same time holding the cause of all the disturbance hidden in your hand. If your canary bird will not sing, try the warbler, and he will soon join in the singing.

This is a wonderful little novelty, and is certain to drive everything else of the kind from the market as soon as its merits are known.

As we are making extensive improvements in COMFORT and want every one to see the next two numbers, we will send this Bird Warbler free to all sending 6 cents for a two months trial subscription. Address: MORSE & CO., Augusta, Maine.

Comfortable Corsets for Summer.



We will send one pair corsets as here illustrated, postpaid, including a year's subscription to COMFORT for only 90 cents, or for a club of 6 yearly subscribers to COMFORT at 25c. each, will send one pair free.

MORSE & CO., Augusta, Maine.

ALMOST BEYOND BELIEF!

An Old Resident of Fall River, Who Was Given Up as Dead, Astonishes His Friends.

HE IS VERY MUCH ALIVE, AND TELLS ALL ABOUT HIS RESCUE.

STARTLING FACTS.

From the Fall River "News," May 6, 1892.

That Thomas Bostock, of this city, is still alive will be news to a good many people in and about Fall River, where he has been widely known for many years; and that he is not only actually alive, but very well and happy, will be still greater news. The startling facts concerning his marvelous rescue are given in the following personal letter to the editor. His escape from death seems almost like a miracle, and we would like to know if any one else has ever met with a similar experience. Mr. Bostock was for more than 10 years engaged in the furniture business here, and his communication will be read with great interest.

FALL RIVER, Mass., May 4, 1892.
To the Editor:—As "dead men tell no tales," my writing this letter right here in Fall River, where I am daily attending to my business, will, I hope, prove to the press and public that I am not dead as reported, but very much alive. It is true that just one year ago I stood on the brink of the grave in a foreign land, never expecting to see my friends again; but it is equally true that to-day I am here in the flesh, a free, well and happy man. I write this letter with feelings of gratitude, that my friends in and around Fall River, where I have lived over seventeen years, may learn of my experience, and how I was saved. Only those who can picture to themselves the awful agony of a man who daily feels and hears that he has at best but a few weeks more to live, can form any idea of what I passed through.

When I sailed for England one year ago, it was with feelings of a drowning man who grasps at a straw; for I was a physical wreck, and had been told by no less than six physicians, including the well known Dr. Guerin, that I was incurable, and that the only thing that could prolong my life for even a brief period was a foreign trip.

I had grown steadily worse ever since April, 1889, when I was first taken sick. I was so racked with bodily pains that when I ventured out I used to fall down in the streets, and my friends now tell me that they daily expected to see a notice of my death in the newspapers. I went from doctor to doctor, and tried everything that was suggested, without obtaining relief. Every physician I went to had a different theory as to what ailed me, and a new course of treatment to offer. Heart trouble, kidney disease, stomach disorders, and sciatic rheumatism were among the ailments for which they treated me; and after I had taken their medicines and had become almost helpless, I was, as I have said, advised to go to England, as that alone could prolong my life. I therefore went to Yorkshire, where I consulted two eminent physicians, who, after treating me without benefit, told me frankly that my case was hopeless, and that if I wished to die among my friends I should hasten back to America.

On my return I was prevailed upon by Mr. John Slinn, general agent of the Vermont Life Insurance Company, to try something which he said had lifted him from a severe sickness. I took his advice, although I felt that nothing could benefit me or bring me back to health. The article he recommended is a Nerve Food called OXIEIN, and Mr. Slinn procured some for me from the discoverers, The Giant Oxie Co., in Augusta, Maine. Its use brought me relief from the first, and day by day I grew steadily stronger, until, after taking it regularly some weeks, I was a well man. During this time I took no other medicine, and was under no other treatment of any kind, and can truthfully say that OXIEIN is not only a wonderful Food for the Nerves, as claimed by its proprietors, but that it is the one medicine which snatched me from the verge of the grave, after all others failed, and after eight physicians had treated me in vain and had given up my case as hopeless and incurable. There is nobody living to-day who feels more grateful for anything than I do for the remedy named. I have recommended it to various friends and acquaintances, and in every case it has worked wonders. By publishing the foregoing facts you will confer a favor upon me, and, I feel sure, a benefit upon sufferers.

THOMAS BOSTOCK,
24 Pearl St., Fall River, Mass.

TO THE PUBLIC.

While the above cure sounds, as the "News" says, like a miracle, thousands of just such cures are being effected all over the country by OXIEIN. Nothing like it has ever been known, and nothing like OXIEIN has ever been discovered. It is the only true food for the nerves, blood and brain. It lifts weary, hopeless sufferers from beds of sickness, not for a day or a week, but permanently, by giving them new nerve force, new strength, new vigor, new life. It does not stimulate. It does not excite. But it imparts vital force and the fire of youth to the human system. Where doctors and medicines utterly fail and all other remedies prove useless, OXIEIN cures and cures permanently. It cures people who have been bedridden for years and who have been given up to die. This wonderful food for the nerves is proclaimed by all who use it to be one of the greatest discoveries of the age. It brings new life in every case, and in order to prove this fact to you we will send free, postpaid, samples of OXIEIN, if you will send your address at once; also show you how to help your fellow men and make a large sum of money in an honorable business.

In view of its startling success a lot of swindling concerns have sprung up who try to profit by this wonderful discovery at the expense of the owners and the public. Sufferers should not allow themselves to be misled. Remember the trade-mark word

OXIEIN

as also the copyrighted trade-mark design of our giant, as here shown

TRADE MARK.



DESIGN COPYRIGHTED.

must appear on every box of the genuine FOOD FOR THE NERVES, or you are being swindled.

THIS IS WHAT HE WROTE US.

No. 7 Warren St., Fall River, Mass.,
July 26th, 1891.

GIANT OXIE CO., Augusta, Me.:—

About a month ago I obtained from you a \$1.00 box of your Oxiein wafers, and although I have not taken them quite regularly, I have tried them sufficient to derive more beneficial results from their use than from any other medicine I ever tried. When I commenced taking them I was afflicted with what the medical profession call tobacco heart, and I had this so bad that my pulse intermitted at times every other beat, causing me great distress and no little alarm. In addition to this I was troubled with all the phases of indigestion. My stomach was so out of tone that most everything I ate distressed me. My back was so weak that the least exertion caused me pain, and I was frequently unable to do anything through effects of lumbago and sciatica. I have not quite finished my first box of Oxiein, but my heart beats as strong and as regular as it did 20 years ago. I can sit down and eat a good square meal of any kind of food without feeling the slightest distress after it, and I haven't got an ache or a pain about my body, and I honestly believe that I am indebted to Oxiein for my improved condition.

Yours truly,

JOHN SLINN.

AN OPEN CHALLENGE.

\$10,000.00. We guarantee OXIEIN to be absolutely free from Morphine, Opium, Mercury, Strychnine, and any and all other opiates, poisons, or narcotics, and we will pay ten thousand dollars cash for proof to the contrary.

THE GIANT OXIE CO., Sole Proprietors.

DON'T BE HUMBUGGED!

Highly Important. Since the discovery of OXIEIN was made public, and the news of its marvellous powers to give New Life to helpless, hopeless sufferers began to be carried from tongue to tongue, there have appeared here, there, and yonder, numerous vile imitations of this Wonderful Food for the Nerves. Absolutely worthless and even dangerous mixtures have been concocted by a set of human frauds, who, like the counterfeiters of our country's currency, seek to palm off their spurious stuff for the genuine goods, and thus not only rob honest worth of its just dues, but also swindle unsuspecting people. Too ignorant themselves to originate anything valuable, and too unscrupulous to earn a living by honest means, these pirates seek to trade on the reputation of honorable men by adopting high-sounding names for their nostrums, or by imitating our Trade-Marks and Copyrights, as well as the form and style of our advertisements and packages, in such manner as to mislead the public.

Some of these impostors have already been brought to justice; and while we shall promptly prosecute every further infringement of our rights that may come to our notice, we wish to impress upon all that the reason why OXIEIN cures after all else has failed is, because OXIEIN IS UNLIKE ANYTHING ELSE EVER DISCOVERED. It is original with us—original in conception, original in composition, and original in effects. It is exclusively owned and manufactured by us, and to attempt to imitate Oxiein successfully is like attempting to imitate the sun that shines in the heavens.

For the benefit of sufferers, and in the interest of fair dealing, we respectfully ask the public to advise us of any attempt at fraud or deception in relation to OXIEIN. Any such information will be gratefully received and held strictly confidential by us.

We have no connection whatever with any other company or firm in this city, or elsewhere, Oxiein was, and still is, the first and only true Food for the Nerves.

Beware of Frauds.

THE GIANT OXIE CO.,
Sole Proprietors, Augusta, Me.

99 PATTERNS AND MANUAL FREE OF INSTRUCTIONS LATEST STAMPING OUTFIT



BEAUTIFUL AND PROFITABLE WORK.

KENSINGTON STAMPING was never more popular than to-day. Many ladies making high wages working at home, odd hours. Besides beautifying your own home you can make 15c. every 5 minutes you stamp for others. If you only devote 3 hours a day to it, the snug little sum of \$5.00 comes in, as the prices range from 5c. to \$1.00 for each pattern you stamp. An inventive genius has lately modernized machinery for turning out these patterns by the hundred yards as fast as you can reel off a ball of yarn, so their cost is barely nothing to what it was last year. We send the patterns on strips about two feet long and seven inches wide. Nearly as good as many 25c. and \$1.00 ones now being sold. We buy so many of this one kind that we can lead every other dealer on price. Our beautiful combined outfit consisting of nearly 100 of the largest variety of patterns, each from about a foot long down to single alphabet letters. We cannot describe them, not having room to go into detail, but in order to introduce our magazine, "COMFORT," with its greatly improved departments, we will send the above outfit, Free, postpaid, to all three months' (12c.) subscribers, and also send a new book or Manual of Instruction in the art of stamping. It describes how to make all colors of powder, and instructs you in every manner of working the patterns. If you enclose 12c., at once, we make you a present of above.

MORSE & CO., Box 1111 Augusta, Maine.

New Bull's-Eye Dark Lantern.



Used by Night Watchmen, Hunters and Farmers, as it throws a powerful light far into the darkness, can be carried in the hand or adjusted to belt for skating or hunting. The top revolves so that three colors can be shown: white, red, and green. Just the thing for Farmers. Sent by mail, post-paid, 25 cents. Send for Free Catalogue of Novelties and Fancy Goods at low prices. MORSE & CO., Augusta, Me.

A Child's Love for a Doll.

HAS OFTEN BEEN COMMENTED ON.—READ ABOUT THE NEW STYLE DOLLS.



Modern invention is always making startling improvements and the latest thing just brought out is for the young people who live away from the large cities. We have just secured sale of a new kind of dolls that are absolutely indestructible, and we show you in this cut here how they look; they are 18 inches tall and made of elegant colored goods. In getting this doll up we have overcome the great trouble of weight which has made such a cost in the past when shipping by mail or express. These dolls are so constructed that you fill them with cotton, hair or sawdust, sewing them up after receiving. It takes but a few minutes to do this and you save at least one dollar and get a pretty substantial doll for almost nothing. They will last for years and be a joy forever to any miss who desires a handsome doll as nice as her own sweet self. To introduce our goods Morse & Co. will send one doll for 13c. or 2 for 25c., or give me free with a 6 months' 25c. subscription, or for a club of 2 yearly 25c. subscribers will deliver one free.

THE HAMMOCK CHAIR.



An elegant easy chair for house or lawn, wood or dale; also combines the features of a hammock and of a swing, it is for Summer and Winter use also. The most economical arrangement ever invented, as having an adjustable lay back and so arranged that it can all be folded up into a very small space when not in use. It is just what EVERY BODY wants to have, whether house-keepers or boarders, men, women or children, and certainly a most comfortable affair, having all ropes, hooks, &c. attached, it can be put up and taken down or adjusted to any desired height, from 3 to 7 feet in a second. It is so simple to put up in the door or on the piazza for an invalid. The children are just crazy to use it for a swing. We offer this brand-new article as a PREMIUM for a club of eight yearly subscribers at 25c. each. We will sell it for 62c. if 20c. extra is forwarded for postage or express.

WHAT A LOT OF COMFORT I CAN NOW TAKE.

MORSE & CO., Augusta, Maine.

GRADUATED PEARL BEAD NECKLACE.

A Beautiful and Fashionable Necklace for 25 CENTS!



NO article of adornment so enhances the beauty of the wearer as Pearls, and the graduated Pearl Bead Necklace is one of the most richly beautiful and charming articles of adornment in the market.

This necklace comprises a large number of PEARL BEADS regularly graduated in size from the little pea pearl up to the central ones as large as a cherry. The necklace looks set the back of the neck, hanging gracefully over the bosom of the wearer, or, if preferable, it can be worn close to the neck.

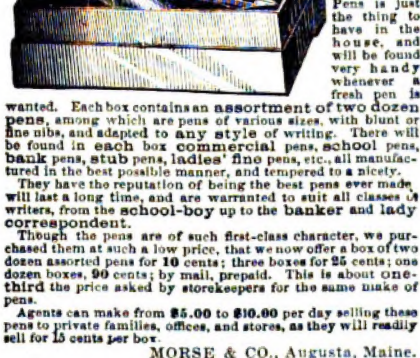
Every one of our lady readers should have one of these beautiful necklaces to add to her list of ornaments. The peculiar opalescent lustre, the soft glow of pearls worth thousands of dollars apiece, are reproduced with exactness, and nothing else makes such a charming necklace, adapted to be worn with any costume.

Price of this beautiful necklace only 25 cents, or two for 40 cents. Sent by mail carefully packed and postage paid.

MORSE & CO., Augusta, Maine.

PARAGON ASSORTED STEEL PENS.

24 Fine Steel Pens for 10 Cents!



A GOOD pen is an absolute necessity now-a-days, but like many useful articles it wears out after a while, and has to be replaced with another one. A box of our Paragon Steel Pens is just the thing to have in the house, and will be found very handy whenever a fresh pen is wanted. Each box contains an assortment of two dozen pens, among which are pens of various sizes, with blunt or fine nibs, and adapted to any style of writing. There will be found in each box commercial pens, school pens, bank pens, stub pens, ladies' fine pens, etc., all manufactured in the best possible manner, and tempered to a nicety. They have the reputation of being the best pens ever made, will last a long time, and are warranted to suit all classes of writers, from the school-boy up to the banker and lady correspondent.

Though the pens are of such first-class character, we purchased them at such a low price, that we now offer a box of two dozen assorted pens for 10 cents; three boxes for 25 cents; six boxes, 50 cents; by mail, postpaid. This is about one-third the price asked by storekeepers for the same make of pens.

Agents can make from \$5.00 to \$10.00 per day selling these pens to private families, offices, and stores, as they will readily sell for 15 cents per box.

MORSE & CO., Augusta, Maine.

progress of the Worlds Fair



WESTWARD HO!

REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE STAFF OF "COMFORT" MAKE A VISIT TO THE WORLD'S FAIR AND THE GREAT WEST. WHAT OUR ARTISTS SAW AND WHAT OUR CORRESPONDENTS FOUND TO TALK ABOUT.

(Special correspondence of "Comfort.")

On the Great "Chicago Limited" train at a speed of almost a mile a minute, the special correspondents and artists of COMFORT were borne swiftly out of the Grand Central Depot in New York, and in a few minutes were skirting the beautiful waters of the Hudson River, and were soon speeding up the magnificent valley of the Mohawk. Every foot of the ground seemed alive with memories of the Revolution, for hereabouts many of the most interesting incidents of the struggle took place. Tarrytown is only twenty-five miles from New York, and it was in Tarrytown that Major Andre was captured. The deep significance of this event may not occur to you at present, but it was one of those critical occurrences that meant far more than we can imagine. Benedict Arnold had arranged to betray West Point, the key to the American situation, into the hands of the British. Had the conspiracy been successful it is doubtful if the Revolution would have succeeded. In all probability Washington would have been taken prisoner, executed as a traitor, and his army destroyed. Major Arnold was on his way to New York, the British headquarters, with the necessary papers, when he was captured in this quaint old town. A beautiful monument marks the spot where Arnold was captured, and not far from the spot stands Sunnyside, the home of Washington Irving.

In fact all through this neighborhood are the homes of celebrated men. Jay Gould, the little Wizard of Wall Street has his summer home near by. John D. Rockefeller, the Standard Oil millionaire, is a neighbor of Mr. Gould, so also is Cyrus W. Field, Chauncey M. Depew, Mrs. Henry Ward Beecher, David Dudley Field, James J. Treadwell, The Blue Stone King and Victor Morrisini, whose daughter created such a sensation some years ago by marrying her coachman. Morrisini is Jay Gould's partner, and the two men sent for the coachman de-

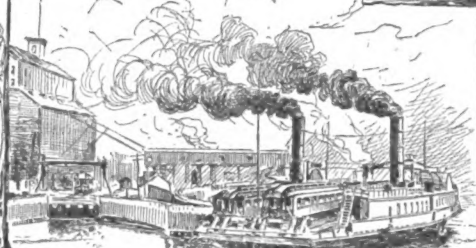
from the awful roar of its descending waters, and the seething torrents that surround the basin of the Falls. A small steamboat called the "Maid of the Mist" takes passengers well up under the Falls, and the benefit of the descending wall of water can thus be obtained. A descent into the "Cave of the Winds" is not attended without difficulty, but it fully compensates for the trouble.

About noon our train comes to the Detroit River, and as we are on the Canadian side we connect with Detroit by means of huge iron ferry transports. The city of Detroit is one of the finest cities we have, and is noted for its fine public buildings, its beautiful private streets and its magnificent architecture.

At nine P.M. sharp, exactly on time to the minute, we roll into the Illinois Central Depot at Chicago. Our trip from New York over the Michigan Central has been one of remarkable comfort. The meals were first class, the cars all that could be desired in the way of luxurious fittings, and with its vestibuled corridors one had actually a continuous walk from end to end of the train without discomfort. It is not at all unlikely that the Michigan Central, running as it does in such close connection with the celebrated New York Central and Hudson River Road, will enjoy wonderful patronage during the World's Fair.

CHICAGO.

The most marvelous of all cities lies right in our own country and the southern



The Main Building of the Columbian Fair



The Columbian Express Crossing the Detroit River



Niagara Falls



New York's (Columbus Monument)

yet that era spans the existence of Chicago. Not Rome on her seven hills, nor Athens by the blue Adriatic, in their most palmy days even dreamed of the magnificence that is already Chicago's nor did they at any time command the position that is universally accorded Chicago today. In 1833 a third rate military outpost, subsequently abandoned altogether. Then occupied as a trading post, meeting-house, etc. Then comes the marvellous development unlike any the World has ever seen before. Then her almost total destruction by fire. Her rehabilitation on a grander and more magnificent scale than ever before, and finally her achievement in securing the World's Fair and from so powerful an adversary as New York, representing as it did not only the Empire State, but the entire Atlantic Seaboard. Nothing else could have impressed the world with the importance of Chicago as did this simple feat. It was a notice that hereafter Chicago would be the chief American city. Chief in Population, Patriotism and Push. And so we went out to the grounds to view the situation selected by the Commission for the Great Columbian Exhibition of 1893.

It lies on the outskirts of the city, and is easily the finest site that could have been selected. The blue waters of Lake Michigan lave its shores and form a beautiful bit of coast, running in at different parts, forming a delightful contrast to the park. This enables the architects to take every possible advantage of the natural formation, which in itself is wonderfully picturesque, and will result in having one of the most unique fair grounds the world has ever seen.

One of the features that were particularly pleasing to us is the fact that the published drawings of the buildings as shown in COMFORT were exactly as seen on the grounds. Nothing was exaggerated in the least. The

buildings are just as large and the park just as pretty as we have represented. Of course the buildings are not finished, but enough was seen to give a clear idea of what is coming. The people of Chicago estimate that the Fair will bring to that city over three hundred million dollars, quite a comfortable sum even for a town the size of Chicago.

But time pressed, so after bidding Director General Davis good-bye and thanking him on behalf of the million readers of COMFORT for courtesies extended we once more boarded the train and were soon in the country at the head of navigation on the Mississippi River, and the Twin Cities of the West, St. Paul and Minneapolis, lay at our feet.

Here is the home of the great wheat markets of the country. Nearly every housewife in the land is familiar with the brands of family flour which emanates from Minneapolis, where are perhaps the finest flouring mills in the world. Several of them stand on the river edge directly below the town and the largest of them is in full view of the train as it crosses below the Falls of St. Anthony. These falls furnished power in the early days, but steam and electricity have since taken their place. Hunting, shooting and fishing can be had in great abundance a short distance from either of the Twin Cities, and an afternoon spent with a half-breed Indian in a canoe is a delightful experience.

All around the Twin Cities the country is dotted with a series of small lakes that are simply beautiful and afford excellent fishing. It is the wonderful clearness of the water that makes the waters of Minnesota famous, and one standing on the edge of a lake can see the bottom with scarcely any difficulty.

A singular thing about the Northwest is the overwhelming number of Scandinavians, Norwegians, etc., with which the population is made up. They say in Minneapolis that if you ask the average citizen where Minneapolis originally came from he will respond "Norway." But in addition to these people who make good citizens, there are also a large number of people who came from Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire and other Eastern States. So there is quite a cosmopolitan growth, taking it all in all.

But all good things come

The rise of this famous firm and their subsequent career and ultimate disappearance, form an instructive and valuable lesson to the young man who is anxious to get along. The eldest brother, August, was one of the ship's crew on board the Aspinwall, a steamer that plied between New York, Acapulco, and other South American points. He commenced by bringing with him as many bunches or "hands" as he had money to pay for. On his arrival he disposed of them for a handsome profit. The fruit controlled by this firm was the celebrated yellow banana grown mainly along the Isthmus of Panama, and is lighter, more delicate, and of finer flavor than its West India rival. Realizing the fact that a trader was of more consequence in this world than a ship's hand August Frank sent for his two brothers Charles and Otto. Charles became the head of the firm in New York, and was recognized everywhere as a man of spotless integrity, and extraordinary financial ability. Yet in the early days of the firm's existence he did not scruple to do the lowest and meanest detail that fell



Canoeing on the Upper Mississippi

to his lot, and many a morning he would be in a cellar surrounded by a gibbering lot of Italians clamoring for their allowance of bananas. He was up and about at all hours of the day and night. A steamer might come in at 2 o'clock or 3 o'clock or any other unseemly hour in the morning and he must be on hand to receive it. At night the pedlars returned with their push carts and found storage room in the cellar of the banana firm. It was a very modest way to begin what afterwards became such a large firm, but it shows what can be accomplished by pluck, perseverance and hard work.

In a few short years the Frank Brothers controlled the banana business of this country, and rapidly became rich. No one else. The Atlas Steamship Co. were also under contract with the brothers to take no other bananas than those for the Franks. It was practically useless to compete with such a monopoly, and for many years the business remained in this condition.

The cargo of fruit as it was received from the vessel was still unripe. The long, yellow covered banana was a deep green, and was plucked and packed in the steamer at such a time that its growth was checked by reducing the temperature in the hold. Immediately on coming to sunlight again the ripening of the fruit continued, and in a few days the fruit was at its most perfect state. But little of the cargo was brought to the store, the main portion being delivered direct to the consumer, or shipped in refrigerated cars to distant cities. The monopoly however was eventually destroyed, though not until the Franks had become enormously wealthy.

The other fruit that comes largely to the United States from the West Indies is the succulent, juicy and always enjoyable pineapple. In all the great cities like Chicago, Boston, New York and Philadelphia, this delicious article is on sale in numerous ways down to the single slices that are offered the school urchins at the munificent price of 1 cent per slice, and which enables many a poor Irish woman to gain a livelihood. The scene on the arrival of one of these pineapple steamers at Boston or Baltimore is a picturesque sight. Like the banana they too are plucked before they are ripe, and allowed to reach maturity after reaching their final destination. The glistening mouths of the amiable darkies, who assist in the unloading, and who are powerless to resist the temptation of sinking their teeth in one of them occasionally, is a comical sight, and the good natured chaff that they undergo is worth listening to. Our artist has depicted the scene which is taken directly from life, and he has also shown one of the great banana cellars where the fruit is hung after coming from the steamer.

One of the great causes of cholera and kindred ills in a great city during the summer is caused by eating over-ripe fruit. Unfortunately among the poorer classes there is not that fastidious taste which could save them from the trouble sure to follow, and in consequence the sanitary laws regarding rotten fruit are very stringent. It is not an unusual sight to see a corps from the Board of Health inspecting the tenement districts and arresting offenders against the law. But it is not always an easy matter to enforce the penalty as those whom the law is designed to protect are frequently in league with the culprits, and give timely warning against the approach of the officers.

Notwithstanding all this the main use of fruit in summer is beneficial, and its consumption goes on with increasing popularity. It is one of nature's wise provisions for the care of health.

its undertakings.

The latest news regarding the World's Fair is in the nature of the importance accorded to the children in connection with the great celebration. As now proposed there will be nearly one hundred and fifty thousand children to participate in singing the National Anthem and other appropriate music. In New York a statue to Columbus has recently been erected which our artist shows in his sketch, and taking it altogether there will doubtless be a celebration that will not only reflect credit on Chicago but on the whole country as well.

So we returned in due time over the plains to Detroit, and once more across the lower strip of Canada back to Niagara Falls and Buffalo. But only a short time elapsed ere the glorious Pine Tree State burst into view and we were home again. The rock-bound coast of Maine is not attractive to the settler who has his home to make, but it has its champions and its sons. We had tarried long from the side of our loved one and were glad to return.

"Be it ever so humble there's no place like home." And now dear COMFORT readers we are back and at work again. We learned much of the great West even in so short an absence, and will give you the result of our efforts in short articles from time to time.

HENDRICK HUDSON.

How Tropical Fruit is Brought Here.

[SEE ILLUSTRATION PAGE 10.]

TWO of the most popular fruits in this country come from abroad. Pineapples grow principally in the West Indies and bananas in Central America, and the origin and growth of their popularity is mainly due to American enterprise.

Not many years ago the only banana used in the United States was the large, thick, red skinned fruit that came from the West Indies. Immense quantities of this fruit were annually consumed, and the business soon became of the first magnitude. During all this time there was no organized trade in bananas, sailing vessels that were not otherwise engaged or coasters that went to the South loaded with coal, ice or lumber, and were obliged to return "in ballast," that is without any cargo, first took the bananas to help them out on the coast of the homeward voyage, selling the fruit for what they could get on their return. Soon however the importance of the business became apparent, and it was not long after that the firm of Frank Brothers appeared on the scene, and for many years absolutely controlled the business, and were supreme in the trade.

Important.

For a year's trial we will Mail COMFORT for only 25c. Knowing we have adopted a Name which carries great weight when it is sold, and believing COMFORT is what every one in the world is after, we will send our Crumbs out 12 months for only 25c. without Premiums, 12 Numbers of which will surely give you Solid COMFORT for the whole year and we shall endeavor to cater so much to the COMFORT of mankind that any one once receiving a Copy will become a life member to our Subscription list. We trust we may hear from all our friends and learn how they each consider the best way for taking COMFORT and we hope to furnish them many hints for happiness. There are Thousands of Papers published in the country, but none like "COMFORT", and no matter how many Periodicals you are taking, you will surely want to Take COMFORT and also get up Clubs so your friends may take it and you receive some of the Premiums for your trouble. Remember the only way to Take COMFORT is To Get COMFORT for a whole year.

ALL LADIES

are beginning to use the new style hairpins that do not injure the hair in any way, being made of shell and amber they are smooth and delicate. We send you a set of four of these pretty souvenirs free postpaid if you secure one new subscriber for COMFORT at 25c., as we are anxious to have all see the new summer features. Nipper & Co., Augusta, Me.

terminated if he was a capable fellow in any way to make the best of a bad bargain and give him a start. But it was a poor selection. The man turned out to be so wretchedly stupid that no hope was to be found in that direction, so he was packed off about his business, and an effort made to annul the marriage. He subsequently found job as a street car driver, but it is commonly reported that he is well paid for not interfering with his wife who, it is believed, is now with her parents.

But the train speeds on, and soon we are at the southern gates of the Highlands, and the scenery becomes wonderfully impressive and sublime in its grandeur.

All along on both banks of the Hudson, and for miles on both sides rise the undulating blue hills which make the valley of the Hudson one of the garden spots on earth.

But we cannot linger on the Hudson forever. At Albany the train takes a westerly course, and soon the river is left behind, a silver streak in the distance. In the morning we awake to find ourselves listening to the roar of the awful Niagara.

Niagara Falls is perhaps the most magnificent natural panorama the World can boast of. It is familiar from engravings to most of the readers of COMFORT, yet its real majesty comes



MY DEAR COMFORT FRIENDS:

Once more we are gathered for our chats together, in this loveliest month of all the year, beautiful sunny June. I am ready this time to announce the result of the Essay Club competition, for which many have been anxiously waiting. The first prize is awarded to "Hope Harvey," Garland, Maine; the second to Mrs. Fannie Campbell Wright, Trent, Texas. Honorable mention is also made of the essay of Mrs. Elizabeth Rodke, Roff, Ind. Ter.

Now I want to say a few words about the Essay Club, as many inquiries concerning it have come to me lately. The object of the Club is twofold: The mental improvement of its members and the assisting of the poor and suffering. The former object is pursued by contests in essay writing at stated intervals, encouraged by prizes kindly offered by the publishers of COMFORT; the latter by a yearly fee assessed upon the members, and given by a committee to some worthy object. The President of the Club is Miss Mary Storey, Madison, Kans.; I have myself assumed the office of Sec'y and Treas. Any subscriber of COMFORT may join the Club at any time by sending the yearly fee of 10c. to me; and I will once more urge upon the old members the necessity of paying their dues for this year, if they wish to take part in future contests. There ought to be very many who are willing to give the small sum of 10c. a year for "sweet charity's sake," besides the benefit derived from the contests. The badges of the Club may be obtained from me at 10c. each. We want to make as good a showing as possible at the COUSINS' REUNION, so let us at once have a grand gathering of old and new members before the next contest. There is now in the treasury the sum of \$2.20, but I think it best to wait until this is somewhat augmented before distributing it. I await the answers of the members to the request which I made last month in regard to this matter. Remember, no one is now a voting member of the Club who has not paid the dues for 1892. The report of the committee on the choice of a subject will be given next month.

I must speak once more about the matter of signing real names to your letters. This is absolutely imperative, and no letter will be admitted unless the writer sends with it his or her full name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith. I have now some excellent letters which I should like to publish if the writers will comply with this rule; I will hold them until after the publication of this month's paper, to see if they care to do so.

The Cousins' Temperance Union has a report to present.

| REPORT FOR 11 MONTHS ENDING MARCH 31, 1892. | |
|---|--------|
| Number of members to date | 33 |
| Admission fees rec'd | \$4.95 |
| Total dues | 4.50 |
| Total receipts | 9.45 |
| AMOUNT EXPENDED. | |
| Pledge cards | \$1.50 |
| Postage | .39 |
| Total | 1.89 |
| Amount in treasury | \$7.56 |

I have handed in my resignation to the President to take effect April 5; so all communications must be addressed to him until a new secretary is appointed. Your friend and co-worker,
FRANK SHORT, Nelson, Mich.

I extend thanks to the officers of the Temperance Union for their courtesy in electing me an honorary member of the society, and for the pledge and badge which were so kindly sent me. You have my most cordial sympathy in your work, in the future as in the past.

I have thought it might be interesting to divide the letters into sections geographically this month, hearing from as many different States as possible. There will not be room for more than one letter from each State, probably, but we will have that one as good as possible.

First let New England speak; and Maine shall have the first word, because that is the birthplace and home of COMFORT.

"Somewhere I have read in a literary criticism, this advice to amateur writers: 'If you have anything to say in this world, either vocally, or with the pen, say it directly, neatly, accurately; if not, silence; there are enough magpies.' So when the suggestion came to me to write a few lines, the thought also occurred that I might be counted as one of the magpies alluded to; for what I would say might only be in appreciation of what others have said in the past. These interesting letters which have found their way to my secluded home, combined in one printed mass, which bears upon its titlepage the significant name of COMFORT. I want to tell you how much I like this little COMFORT; for in it do we not observe mind answering to mind, like faces reflected in a mirror, although miles of sea and land intervene between them? I should like extremely well to wear that badge which was referred to, for if Fortune favors me I shall be at the Exposition in Chicago, and nothing would please me more than to see the cousins all meeting together in one grand jubilee. You see with what earnestness I have built an air-castle, and that is where I dwell most of the time. I think it much better for body and mind, if the struggle is hard, to build them, even if they fall again like 'ropes of sand.' I see the temperance question is being discussed. Some one has said that profanity, tobacco and rum go hand in hand. This reminds me of what I heard a gentleman say not long since: 'My father was a deacon, and brought us boys up strictly, never allowing us the use of tea, tobacco, or rum, never using profane language himself or allowing us to do so; and I think it is no mark of a gentleman in any one else. But I had a cousin to whom profanity had become such a habit that he could hardly speak a sentence without an oath. Once he was talking with a girl whom he liked and wanted to marry, and was making love to her in his coarse, rough way, when at last the girl said to him, 'Why, you can't speak a sentence without swearing; I've been watching to see how many oaths you have used while talking. You can't utter a sentence without an oath.' 'I can too,' he retorted. 'Well, let me hear you then.' 'You are a pretty girl,' he repeated very slowly. 'And that is a lie,' she answered quickly, 'and lying is just as bad as swearing!' And so it is, undoubtedly. Would like to exchange curiosities with the cousins.
MAGGIE, Box O, Burnham, Maine."

I cannot just agree with Maggie about "castle-building." It has been my experience and observation that indulgence in day-dreaming unites the mind for active duties, and makes one morbid, irritable and self-absorbed. Better to let the mind be occupied with some good book, or with plans which shall be of practical benefit to some one else.

Now a few words from Vermont.
"The town in which I live has a population of 3,300, and is very pleasantly located on Otter Creek and Mill River. There are many fine marble quarries here. Two summer resorts are near by, Lake Dunmore and Fern Lake. A few years ago an Indian canoe was taken from Fern Lake, which proves that Vermont was once the home of Indians. I think the

Cousins' Temperance Union is a grand thing, and hope that many will join it.

BRANDONIAN, Brandon, Vt."

New Hampshire, Conn. and "Little Rhody" have not been heard from lately, so we will leave New England with a letter from Mass.

"I live in the old Bay State, and am of German descent. I came to this country at the age of 10, received a very meagre education at the public schools, and at 14 years was obliged to leave school and go to work. But I studied at home as well as I could, and soon learned to read and write English quite well. I enjoy reading the letters of the cousins very much, and would like to have my finger in the pie. May Queen, your letter was read with much interest. In speaking about the boys, you say: 'Don't you believe the girls are somewhat responsible for their drinking, etc.' I say, certainly they are. So are wives often responsible for what kind of husbands they have. When a man comes home tired from work at night, and finds his wife with a scowl on her face as black as a thunder-cloud, the children crying, dirty and unkempt, the table not set for supper, is it much wonder that he will retrace his steps in disgust and seek recreation in an ale-house? Is it a wonder that he will speak lightly and sneeringly of matrimonial felicity? On the contrary, when a man comes home and finds his wife with a smile and a word of welcome on her lips, the house in order, the table set neat and clean for supper, will he be as likely to leave such a cheerful home and go to a place where profanity, vice and crime has its lair? I think not. A woman's influence can do a good deal toward reforming a man. May Queen says she is not in love. Well, I am, and can therefore speak

from experience in such things. Correspondence with the cousins solicited, English and German. Address with Aunt Minerva.

HANK HUCKLEBERRY."

There is much sound sense in the letter above; and yet many a poor woman has faithfully performed a wife's duty to her brute of a husband, made his home pleasant, met him with a smile on her lips when her heart was breaking, only to see him, night after night, go off to squander his wages at the saloon, and come home more of a beast than before. Do not lay too much stress on your influence, girls; a man's habits are seldom changed much by marriage, and the only way to have a good husband is to marry a good man.

Next come the Middle States, and New York shall lead off with a most interesting letter from our friend Librarian.

"What a sensation of awe comes upon us, when we reflect that we, whose words seldom have a score of auditors, are permitted through the columns of world-spanning COMFORT to introduce the children of our brains to a million readers. Surpassing thought! Glorious paper! Success to COMFORT, the concrete; it is comfort, the abstract. My attention was attracted in a recent number by a letter from Ernestine Shauer. If I rightly understand that letter, the writer thinks we ought to wage no wars, but should live in universal peace and good-fellowship. Theoretically Ernestine's views are correct; but I think they will admit some practical criticism. Wars may be divided into two classes; war for war's sake, and war a means to some end. I will admit that wars of the first division of the classification are wholly wrong; but I think that such contests died

almost entirely out in the medieval ages. I will also admit that by far the greater portion of the wars in the second class are waged for trivial and unworthy causes or objects, that nations are impoverished and blood needlessly shed. But when the clamor of war rouses men to battle for a noble cause, for the preservation of kindred, home and country, for sacred rights and liberties, for the principles of freedom and truth, for all that association renders dear, and for all that moral obligations have made sacred, then it is not the war which should be censured, but that which causes its necessity. It is true that 'War is a necessary evil' sometimes. Ought we not to check and punish deeds, which aim not only against our welfare and the just laws of man, but also against the holy teachings of God? I would like to change slightly the form of Ernestine's question. What would you think of a man, who, when his neighbor attempted to kill him and seize his property, submitted without opposition to his fate, although he had the power to defend himself? In the Bible wars receive divine sanction, and God himself plans campaigns and sends His angels as leaders. Why should we cease to teach wars in history? We seek not to make the clangor of arms and the panorama of battles alluring, but to develop a patriotic spirit, which, while it prompts us to die bravely for our country if there be need, at the same time causes us to recognize the fact that the prosperity of a country depends not on the greatness of its victories and conquests, but on the depth of its peaceful relations with eternal powers and the profoundness of its domestic harmony. As Ernestine says, the best way to cultivate peace is to instill its love in youthful minds. It is in the same way, if ever, that temperance will be victorious. We dwell upon the glorious achievements of our fallen heroes, not to preserve bitterness of feeling or to incite warlike zeal, but rather to retain in remembrance and honor the nobility of those who, battling for their righteous convictions, died far from home, and sleep unknown on Southern soil. The past is gone; it can never return. Hearts once rampant with hostility are fused and purified by common suffering into an inseparable union. A bond of brotherly and national sympathy unites the Blue and the Gray. Hate and sectional feeling were buried twenty-five years ago; may even their ghosts never arise. Hark! From Maine to California, from the Great Lakes to the Gulf, the veterans of the sixties join in one grand chorus of amity and praise, which in swelling majesty rolls even to the pearly gates of the Golden City, and the angels hearing it rejoice. LIBRARIAN, Lock-box 209, Fulton, N. Y."

The gist of your argument lies in the sentence, "It is not war that should be censured, but that which causes its necessity." Yet in the (supposed) constant advance of civilization, ought not the national sentiment of the people of the world to be in time educated up to the point where there will be no necessity for war? The trivial matters for which nations rush to arms, instead of submitting them to arbitration, the deal with which wars are raised and maintained at an enormous expense, the present attitude of Europe, where each country seems only seeking an opportunity to attack the others, all these show that that millennial season is yet far away.

Pena. is always largely represented among my letters, and from them I will select one from a new nephew.

"What I like about this column is, that the letters are so earnest and sensible. I heartily endorse Nellie's defence of love affairs. It is only silly people who think love silly, and I have not a very exalted opinion of those who deem love to be a weakness and something to be ashamed of. There is nothing so ennobling, so refining in its influence, so exalted in its character as love. And is it not possible that we may love without being 'in love,' as Nellie seems to intimate? If not, then I must plead ignorance of any personal experience in the matter. When Paul commanded 'love one another,' he did not mean that love which we are supposed to feel when the right man comes along, but he referred to that general principle of love which is implanted in the hearts of all mankind, and which by cultivation may be so developed as to extend even to our enemies. I hope the Temperance Club will prosper. The true remedy for intemperance, in my opinion, is Prohibition. I believe prohibition is going to win, but it cannot until public opinion is strongly in its favor. The great demand of the present is for men who have moral courage enough to take their stand for right and justice, and exert their influence for this, the grandest political reform measure ever advocated. If only America's women were allowed to vote, the liquor traffic, that arch fiend despot, destroyer of peace and happiness, despoiler of virtue and innocence, enemy of all good, would soon receive its death blow, and above its dying groans would be heard the ringing shouts of applause; over its bier cries would ascend and tears would fall, not of sorrow and grief, but of joy from the heart of a nation disenthralled. SIMPLE CYCIC.

From Maryland we have a description of one of its beautiful cities.

"I shall endeavor to acquaint you with my 'Queen City home.' Cumberland is situated in a delightful valley, on the source of the picturesque and historic Potomac, surrounded by tapering mountains and undulating plains. A few years back this beautiful city was a cattle range, while now a population of 13,000 finds comfortable homes and profitable pursuits. The best buildings have been erected within the past few years and include many excellent stone business blocks, hotels and handsome private residences. For the region tributary to Cumberland is an exceedingly fruitful one, not only in agricultural and horticultural products but also in mineral deposits of coal, iron-ore, plaster, limestone, etc. Manufactories would do well, and verily it is difficult to mention an industry for which Cumberland is not adapted. The requisites are here which need not be sought far from the confident and determined man to make this valley a source of delight and of riches for tens of thousands of the human family. Your nephew,
QUEEN CITY."

New Jersey has a patriotic representative.

"Les Cheaux, that was a charming letter you wrote. I believe such letters are more appreciated by the Stars and Stripes than so much talk of religion; they need cheer and mirth as well. I wish I could have been with you on that sleigh-ride. I live in northern New Jersey among the hills, and it is lovely here in summer. Often I climb the hills for the sake of the grand view from the top. I am proud of my native State and loyal to the Stars and Stripes. As to the question, who are the happiest, I believe it is those who possess a happy, sunny disposition under all circumstances, loving and loved by all that know them. I would like to hear from a good, woman who is lonely, perhaps we might be of mutual benefit. LAUREL FLOWER."

As Del. is not heard from, W. Va. will come next.

"I live in the northern part of the State, near Mannington, the great oil centre. There have been thousands upon thousands of barrels of oil sent from this field by means of a pipe line which extends from St. Marys, on the Ohio river, through the State to the Atlantic seaboard. Natural gas is found in large quantities, which supplies many people with fuel. Oil is found by boring from 1,800 to 25,000 feet. This is a rough State, yet its hills and mountains are filled with minerals which at no distant day will make it one of the richest States in the Union. I agree with the cousins about the liquor traffic; it is the worst curse of our nation. Three-fourths of all the crimes committed in this country are caused by drink. Tobacco is the next greatest curse. I would like to correspond with those who think as I do about these things. H. T. HALL, Mannington, W. Va."

From the little District of Columbia I have such an interesting letter from one who has called before.

"Notwithstanding the inclement weather and entailing grip Washington has had a very gay season. During the past winter many theatrical celebrities have been 'breaching the boards' here. First and foremost the 'divine Sarah' has delighted anew her admirers in her famous impersonation of Joan of Arc. Ethena, the French actress, with excellent support in La Czarina, is as graceful and majestic as ever; 'Fritz' Emmet, son of the now deceased, but once renowned and popular J. K. Emmet, bears out the character 'Fritz in Ireland' even more successfully than did his talented father. Too, we have had the celebrated Meininger Opera Co. here and truly they are deserving of all the praise bestowed upon them. Though not a German, and possessing only a very limited knowledge of the language of the fatherland I went to see their Julius Caesar played 'auf Deutsch.' It was superb; the conspiracy, the tragic death of Caesar, the oration of Marc Antony and the movements of the fickle Roman mob, bearing so

HOW THEY SIGN THEIR NAMES.

It is said, with a great deal of truth, no doubt, that from the handwriting of people their character may be read.

This is the way the happy couple who at the present time occupy the most prominent official position in the United States write their names:—

EXECUTIVE MANSION
WASHINGTON.

Rufus H. Isaacs

Caroline Scott Haman

And this is the handwriting of the progressive Cabinet official who believes that, inasmuch as the business-man's mail is delivered to him at his office by Uncle Sam's carrier, the farmer is entitled to have his mail brought to his door also:—



Office of the Postmaster General,
Washington, D.C.

Yours for Postal progress
J. W. Hamaker
Postmaster General
April 4/92

Here are the sentiments and signa ure of the beloved widow of America's most distinguished divine:—

Brooklyn May 4/1892

"Yours for Comfort"

Mrs Henry Ward Beecher

Our late Minister to France, Mr. Whitelaw Reid, editor of the "New York Tribune," whose signature appears next, is the author of the following sentiment, which should be taken to heart by every citizen of the United States:—

"Americans should identify, not degrade, politics. They should realize that to go into politics is to deal with the highest objects of human concern; and that the pretended feeling of contempt for those who do, merely because they do, is the sure mark of a snob. Let us learn that, next to the ministry of God, the highest career open to human ambition is the service of the people."

Whitelaw Reid

The next signature is that of the popular author and humorist who has made more people smile than any living American, although he rarely smiles himself. He is known the world over as Mark Twain, but his real name is Samuel L. Clemens, and he climbed the ladder of success by making other people forget their troubles.

Mark Twain

gracefully the toga, and with their shapely bare arms ever waving; one minute in a perfect frenzy of anger, the next in warm patriotic enthusiasm, all defy description. One of the brightest 'stars' in musical circles was also here—Leonora Von Stosch, the already famous violinist of whom is predicted a brilliant future. I went to the Capitol recently; I go there occasionally to read in the library but the time in question I visited the House. They always have a lively time in the House. In the Senate there seemed to be a South Sea calm. The subject of the debate then in progress was an appropriation for agricultural purposes and I certainly did enjoy it—Tollman, the 'watch dog of the Treasury,' a man of spare build, was of course on the negative side but despite his opposition the bill passed. Looking down upon that assembly of the Representative law makers of the United States it is hard to realize that they take such a big part in controlling public money and ruling the land. Here we do not find school-room order nor the quiet of a lecture hall but as in their school-days the members need sometimes, and frequently too, to be called to order. Perhaps some bill is pending; then those interested are debating or listening intently to the proceedings while a busy member right there is answering a voluminous correspondence and near by one is about to send out some mail; he claps his hands and instantly a page runs up to receive his instructions; upon distant estates two grave looking members are engaged in serious conversation and here is a merry group of three with their chairs tilted back while they listen to some good story, I judge, for they slap their knees and laugh heartily. In the halls of Congress the student of human nature finds much to interest him. Some are agitating in these columns the question of flirting. A bad habit, of course, but to most girls the impulse to flirt, to be just a bit coquettish, is almost irresistible. A bright glance, a smile, a passing wave of the hand and the consequences are sometimes painfully embarrassing. Were I so staid an elderly that the temptation to flirt would never come to me then I might write an article on flirting. Don't misunderstand me; I do not countenance the repulsive, systematic flirting, patent to every one but say, 'be temperate in all things not sinful' and in reference to minor points in life, we must make our own decision regarding their sinfulness. Hoping, dear Aunt Minerva will again welcome,

JEANIE, Washington, D. C."

Now we will travel on down the coast through the Southern States.

"Here I come again from the midst of those Indians which seem to be a grand curiosity to the cousins. Our youngsters and older ones too, obtained a full supply of intoxicating liquor to celebrate that grand day on which our Mediator was born. The awful horrors which are entailed upon the human family by this monster evil—intemperance—can never be overstated. The man does not live who can tell the whole story of its woes. Were I an engraver, I would borrow a pencil from Raphael and dip it into the fountain of human sorrow and I would engrave a picture of this evil of intemperance. Would put into that picture every conceivable thing that was terrible and revolting. I would paint all the crimes, from foul murder standing aghast over the open grave which it has no means to cover, to the meanest deception still confident of success. I would paint a dark, dreary and cheerless valley and call it the 'Valley of the shadow of death,' and people it with ever-living slaves. I would paint a deep and gloomy cavern where sunlight never strays; where foul odors fill the air and where the dying moans of murdered men reach through its sepulchral vaults. I would fresco it with slimy serpents and crawling spiders, and on the walls the faces of grinning devils should gleam out with maddening fury and fiendish hate. I would paint prison doors that open inwardly only, and then people the scene with men whose shattered forms were tenanted by tormented souls; with sad-faced children, upon whose lips no smile could ever play; while women whose cheeks had been burned by tears wrung by anguish from bleeding hearts, pressing to their bosoms their starving babes. And in the center of this picture flows a deep, dark river rushing angrily on, bearing everything on its heaving bosom toward an awful Niagara of death. Its waters should be the tears of weeping eyes and the blood from human hearts. Young women are helping to paint this awful picture and will be until they heed the advice of John A. Taylor in COMFORT. I hope the time is not far distant when the girls all over the land will say, 'Lips that touch liquor shall never touch mine.'

ROBT. CHILDERS,

Birdtown, N. C."

"I am the daughter of a Southern farmer, and 'exist' near the small town of Page's Mills. I have a few pets, but must confess, my pets are of the neuter gender; a hoe-handle in spring-time, and a cotton-picking sack in autumn. Our country is known as the 'Sunny South,' but those who think its climate a perpetual summer would be somewhat surprised if they could see us skating and snow-balling; they would be again surprised if they could see the beautiful cotton fields. I can play anything I ever heard on a violin, but that is the only musical instrument I can perform on; yet I can perform on sewing-machine, stove, wash and ironing boards, but of course they are not choice performances. I would like to correspond with the cousins, musicians preferred.

LOU ELLA FORD, S. C."

As Georgia does not seem to be very well represented, I will admit one of the "young folks" into our corner to speak for that State, as he seems to be a pretty forward boy!

"I live in a beautiful land of flowers and trees, and love my native State. I do not mean that I am in any way prejudiced against the North. I welcome them as brothers and sisters, and fondly hope for the time when we will be united as firmly in the bonds of friendship as we were before the late war. I would like to ask the boys a few questions. What do you intend to be when you are men? How do you intend to gain the knowledge requisite for your entrance into the profession you mean to choose? I believe that every boy should decide by the time he is 15, what he means to be. I am only 15, but have firmly decided to become a civil engineer when grown. I take a great interest in mathematical problems, and would be glad to receive some from cousins who are fond of mathematics. Am also interested in ornithology and natural history. I am constantly studying the habits of birds, and the more I study, the more interesting it becomes.

DIXIE BOY,

Spring Hill, Ga."

Good advice for you, boys. Make up your mind as soon as possible what your life-work is to be, and then make everything bend to that end. Sometimes circumstances beyond our control make changes in our plans, but generally an inflexible purpose will carry you through.

Florida next.

"I wish some of the cousins could sit with me on my veranda this morning and enjoy the lovely view of island gulf. The air is laden with the perfume of orange blossoms. I think we are going to have a splendid orange crop this year, judging from the bloom on the trees; the ground under them is white with fallen petals, which are very nice to fill sachets with. John's Pass is on the Gulf coast about 40 miles west of Tampa, and boasts of having the largest and finest hotel in the world, which has been crowded with guests the past winter. I must go to the island this afternoon to get some shells and corals for my numerous exchanges, and also put out some bulbs in my yard. We had quite a frost and ice the 18th of March. Will be pleased to correspond with any of the cousins who will enclose stamp.

Mrs. A. STEPHENS, Johns Pass, Fla."

Now we have come "away down South in Alabama."

"Let me give the cousins a description of a most delightful trip I had to Mt. Vernon barrack, to see the Indians that are confined there. We had to ride 4 miles to the Ala. river, where we got a yawl; and before the sun had made its appearance over the hills, we were afloat upon the smooth water. After becoming tired of admiring the beautiful scenery, lunch baskets were brought, and we breakfasted on the water. When we reached Mt. Vernon warehouse, we were met by a man with a four mule wagon. Such a ride as we had! We had not gone very far before the rain came pouring down. The driver laid whip to the mules, and they started off on alope, and we were nearly shaken out of our seats. After a ride of 3 miles, we stopped at the little village, took dinner, and were then ready to visit the Indians. We were not a little surprised to find the men covering houses, clearing land, etc., but they are kept under guard. The government furnishes lumber, with which they are made to build comfortable houses; but many prefer their former mode of living, and have wigwams built of straw, bark, cloth, etc., and the women prepare the food out on the ground, or let the smoke

from the fire go out through a hole in the top of the tent. At one tent we saw a little girl grinding coffee by putting it on a rock and rubbing it with another stone. They are fond of money, and sell beads, bows and arrows, moosehairs, anything that they have to get it. The chief was very friendly, and after shaking hands with the crowd, he offered us seats in his tent, and showed us some photographs of himself, of which he seemed to be very proud. They only spoke a few words of English. We visited the government buildings, but the afternoon passed rapidly away, and soon we had to leave to take the steamer.

LUELLA FERGUSON, Latham, Ala."

A voice from Miss. to join the discussion on war.

"What a treat! I have just been reading the Chats with Aunt Minerva in the March No. of COMFORT. Yes, by all means let the cousins have a meeting at the World's Fair. Dear Aunt Minerva, how kind you are, to do so much for the enjoyment of the cousins. If it be true that 'every kind act adds a star to our crown,' then yours will be decked with many a bright gem. Ernestine Schauer, your letter touched a tender chord in my heart. War is indeed a monster, and should be struck from the face of the earth as a blighting evil. Remember, dear cousins who would advocate its cause, if there be any, how our own beloved country has suffered at its cruel hand. How many fathers, sons and brothers marched away, alas never to return! How many sad hearts waited and watched in vain! Who can look back upon that

flutters our national flag. At the foot of the flag-staff are bayonets crossed, and a drum which once called the heroes to battle.

SOUTHERN GIRL No. 2."

Now an old friend from Ark. will tell us something of that State.

"This is a rough, mountainous country. We have fine scenery; from our place we can see the sand bars of the Arkansas river over 30 miles away, also the Petty Jane Mts. still beyond the river; to the north of us some 6 miles we see the highest peak of the Boston Mts. This is a remarkable healthy country. Fruits and vegetables grow to perfection. There was an apple raised here last year that weighed 1 pound and 6 ounces. There is some vacant land here yet, but it is being taken up fast. My native State is Indiana. We have been in Ark. a little over 3 years. Have any of the cousins a copy of the Christmas extra of 'The Review of Reviews,' entitled 'Real Ghost Stories,' that they wish to exchange? Would like to correspond with some of the cousins in Arizona, Nevada, Wyoming and Montana.

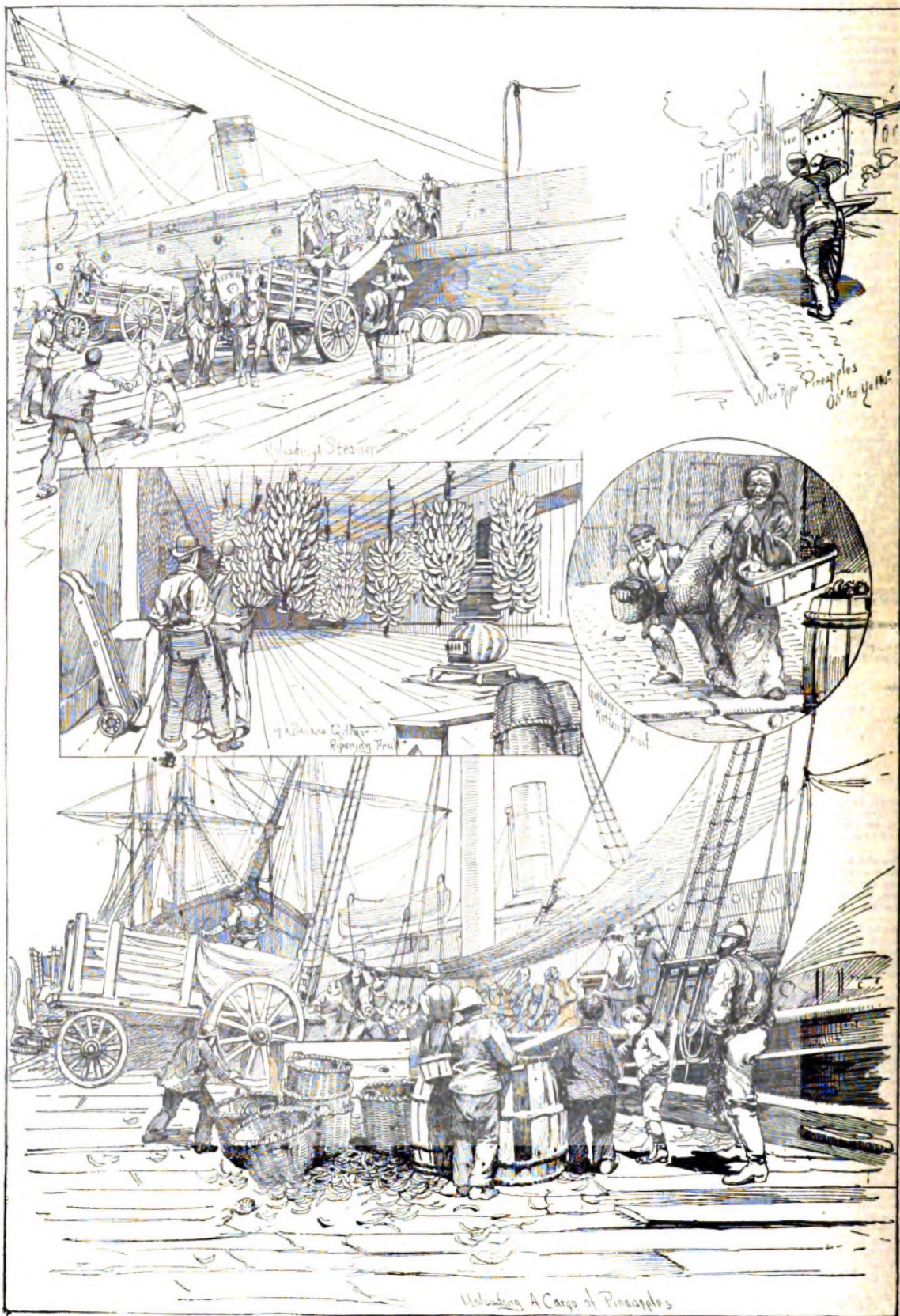
Yours truly, JAMES E. McMAHILL,

Diamond, Van Buren Co., Ark."

The great State of Texas ought to have more than one representative, but there is no room for more this time.

"I live far off in western Texas; came here when a boy, in 1865. At that time numerous bands of wild Indians roamed the prairies of Texas, and they, with

here, 26 years of age, and have been engaged in teaching for the past 8 years. Like Wisconsin Wild Bill I am a bachelor, but unfortunately for my peace of mind, I do not possess his distaste for the society of the other sex. Southeastern Ky. has, until lately, been almost completely isolated from other portions of the State. Separated from the Bluegrass portion by almost impassable mountains, her people were, and are, almost a world unto themselves, with manners and customs that seem uncouth and odd to an outsider. This region consists of a succession of narrow, but fertile, valleys and rugged mountains, stern, severe and sombre, which afford secure hiding-places to the moonshiner and 'wildcatter.' The inhabitants, in their characteristics, resemble the region they inhabit, and in general have a serious cast of countenance and a weary, longing, inquiring look out of eyes that seem to peer into the future, as if asking what recompense it had in store for the weary, monotonous toil endured in this life. Kentucky, in early days, was called 'The dark and bloody ground,' and, until lately, this section has merited a continuation of the title. Human life was held all too cheaply, and scarcely a week passed by without its fierce encounter and bloody feud. Life, which is often a struggle for mere existence and destitute of all the amenities of a more civilized society, was considered almost valueless, a thing to be despised, and they met death with the unshrinking courage of the old Vikings, who, when they found him approaching, had themselves carried on board



Unloading A Cargo of Pineapples

dreadful time, and yet say 'war is grand, war is glorious.' I am a true Southern girl, and love the beautiful South; but my love for the Union is stronger still. How many of the Northern cousins will clasp hands with me over the graves of the 'Blue and the Gray'? DIXIE LASS, Calooga, Miss."

Thank you for your kind words for Auntie; it is pleasant to know our column is appreciated. We must all plan to make the World's Fair Reunion a success, as no one person can do that. Who is going to the great U. S. C. E. convention in New York next month? I hope to be there, and perhaps can arrange to meet some of the cousins if they will write to me this month.

Excuse this digression from the letters. Let me see, I believe Louisiana comes next.

"I will write a few lines about a very interesting part of New Orleans, Chalmette, where sleep friend and foe. It is in the parish of St. Bernard, and fronts the river and wharf. A brick wall separates it from an old fortification and earth-mound said to have been built by Gen. Jackson in 1815. The tree under which Gen. Packenham was buried is there. Every step is taken over ground watered by the blood of our country's heroes. The entrance gate and fence are very handsome. Near the latter is a platform around which twine dark green vines; this platform is used on Decoration Day by the orators. The grounds are beautifully laid out, trees, shrubs and flowers everywhere. Over each grave is a small marble slab bearing a number, the only record of the self-sacrificing love of the one whose ashes lie beneath. In the centre of the cemetery is a pillar, at the base of which repose cannon, and from the top

hands of outlaws and desperadoes, caused us always to be in a state of defence. We formed ourselves into companies known as Rangers, and often invaded the country of our foes and punished them severely for their many deeds of theft, arson and murder. At the age of 14 I joined the Rangers, and for nearly 23 years I have roamed the prairies of the far West as one of the vanguards of civilization, exposed to all kinds of danger. Twice I was captured by the Indians; once my captivity was of short duration, as I soon made my escape, but the second time I was prisoner among them 10 months before I gained my freedom. Only by the hand of Providence has my life been spared up to the present time. It was at a fight at Trickham between the Indians and the Rangers that I was given by Bigfoot Wallace the name by which I have been known on the border for more than 20 years; and Madeup is known in almost every household in Tex., New Mex. and Arizona. Last winter when in New Orleans attending one of its most noted theatres, my name was spoken by one of my old chums, and when it was rumored that Madeup was present, the cry went up to let myself be seen. Nothing would satisfy the audience until I appeared on the stage and addressed a few words to them.

It is not often that such distinguished characters appear among us, but I must say that I am glad that I live in a part of the country which does not need to be protected in such a way as our famous cousin describes.

I have a very interesting letter from Ky.

"I will introduce myself to the cousins by saying I am a mountain teacher or 'master' as we all say

some favorite galley, on whose deck they had erstwhile swept old oceans wave, and with sails all set and the vessel fired, went forth joyously to meet him, alone on the wild wastes of waters, exulting in the hope of a glad welcome to Valhalla's halls. At present the fashion has changed somewhat and it is considered not quite the thing, to die with one's boots on. Even Craig Tolliver, the noted desperado, the hero of a thousand desperate adventures and hairbreadth escapes, surrounded in the Cottage Hotel at Moosehead by a hundred infuriated, relentless mountaineers determined to avenge the murder of the Logan boys, realizing that escape was impossible and death inevitable, after bringing down the foremost of his assailants with his Winchester, turned to a friend in the hotel office and said, 'Bob, it shall never be said of me that I died with my boots on,' then seating himself in a chair drew off his boots and in his stocking feet and with a smile on his face, he stepped out upon the pavement and fell riddled with a hundred balls. If some of the cousins would write me, as we say here in the mountains, 'they would do me proud.'

COLLINS MCGEE,

America, Lee Co., Ky."

With a word from Tenn., we leave the Southern States.

"I live in Memphis, and as the chief object of interest here at present is the new bridge which spans the 'Father of Waters,' I will give you a brief description of it. The bridge is 72 ft. above water mark and nearly 11-2 miles in length. Most of the structure is of steel, the pedestal-plates of cast-iron, and the nuts and swivels of wrought iron. The main pin of the cantilever truss is 14 inches in diameter, and

weighs 2,200 lbs. The piers are made of Georgia granite and Indiana limestone. This bridge when completed will have cost over \$3,000,000. The dedication will take place May 12th, when there will be a grand celebration. I think the idea of the Reunion is just fine, and I intend to be there and enjoy myself with the rest.

Now for the North Central States; we must hasten on, for I fear that we shall overrun our space.

"In looking over the back numbers of COMFORT, I find but few letters on the subject of music; why is it? I am deeply interested in music, which I consider the most pleasing and beautiful of all the arts. There is nothing nicer in the home than to have each of the young folks learn some instrument, and when tired of reading, spend the evening in music, instead of finding amusement in the saloon and places of a like nature. Next to some one write on this subject? Tell your favorite instruments, pieces, etc. As for myself, I am a member of a glee club, and play the organ and guitar.

C. L. C., Box 229, Pioneer, Ohio.

There is nothing that makes home more attractive than music, and all the members of the family who have any taste at all in that direction, should learn to perform on some instrument, and add to the general enjoyment. So many young people, upon whose musical education their parents have spent large sums of money, are never willing to play at home, but keep their accomplishments wholly for outsiders; "haven't got time" to give pleasure to father and mother, to brothers and sisters, by their music. This is cruelly selfish and unkind to those whom it should be their greatest pleasure and duty to please.

Now the Hoosier State.

"I heartily agree with D. G. B. in her opinion on dancing. There is no harm in dancing, as you say, but it is in the company one meets at such places. Many men and women have been led astray by the bad company they meet at such places. The ballroom is no place for a lady who respects herself. No Christian can attend dances and keep unspotted from the world. I am glad to see so many of the cousins are interested in temperance and hope they will ever be total abstainers from the fiery poison. Dear cousins, let us put in a word for temperance every chance we get and do all we can in this great and noble cause. I believe that woman should vote on the liquor question because I am sure she would vote for prohibition. I would like to see the United States become temperate and prohibit the use of all intoxicating liquors as a beverage. Next to nutritious liquors, the best tobacco would be that with liquor, it were banished from our fair country. I would like to correspond with telegraph operators.

SWEET WILLIAM.

Here comes a genuine boy from the World's Fair city.

"I have been down to the Exposition several times, having two cousins in the architectural department who can get passes very easily. I think the Woman's building is the best. Queer, isn't it? I have seen flirting mentioned several times in different letters, and want to express my opinion of it. I don't think it is bad if you don't go too far and don't flirt with more than one girl. When a boy really thinks a great deal of a girl, why shouldn't he tell her so? If they were grown up, people would say they were in love, but why shouldn't they be in love anyhow? I don't believe in a girl allowing any boy to kiss her unless he is her brother, and I can say I have never kissed a girl. Of course I have wanted to kiss a certain one several times (she's the sweetest girl in the world), but I have never done it. This same girl has done me more good than anybody else, a thing she couldn't have done if she hadn't known just how much I thought of her. Being the only one left of my family I live and have lived for over 5 years with a very distant cousin, who doesn't think boys are worth much anyhow. So you see I haven't had a very soft time of it. To tell the truth I am seldom in the house except at night getting my lessons with my 'chum' at his home. Don't you like skating? I think it is the nicest thing in the world. If you have a nice girl with you it's bully! Why doesn't Wisconsin Wild Bill write again? I like his letters very much. I am not a church member although I attend church regularly. My girl friend is, and lives up to what she believes. How many of the cousins have seen Joe Jefferson act? I have seen him every time he has been here for 4 years. I belong to the North Division High School base ball nine. Your flirtingly-inclined nephew.

TOM M. DALY, Chicago, Ills.

Well, Tom, I am not much in favor of flirting, as you know, but I must confess to a little sympathy with you. A boy who isn't considered to be "worth much anyhow" in the place he calls home, can't have affection and sympathy somewhere, and if he can get it from a good girl, why, he might do worse, that's all I assure you that I think boys are worth a good deal, for I have too many fine nephews to go back on them in any way. Stick to your girl, Tom, and you will not get very far out of the way.

"I notice Michigan cousins don't seem to be very plentiful. My home is away back in the northwoods of Michigan among the hills and valleys, and forests of maple, pine, hemlock, etc. Plenty of snow every winter and the principal occupation is lumbering. Not a very pleasant place for a young lady, you will think. And I'll admit that it is not the pleasantest. But I am a true Christian girl and that makes quite a difference. I find plenty of work to do for the Master right here at home. And when working for Him who did so much for us, who could be unhappy? Not I. I think the letters in Jan. No. of COMFORT are very cheering. The Chats have improved so much in the last year or so. Pedagogue, your views on religion are mine precisely. I also am a member of the M. E. church. My greatest trouble is that I cannot do enough for Jesus. But I now see a new field open for me. I shall help the COMFORT Shut-Ins all I can. Money is not nor never has been a very plentiful article in my home. But I am a schoolma'am, a 'backwoods schoolma'am', and earning money is not out of the question, and during the new year I will invest more in God's cause than I have in the year that is gone. How many of the cousins have a text for each year? I have had one for each year since I began to live a Christian life and I find it a great help. Try it cousins, those that haven't already. My text for the new year is, 'Bear ye one another's burdens.' How I should like to talk with and sympathize with all our dear Shut-Ins. Where I live is a very healthy climate and there is very little sickness. In fact I do not know of any invalids or Shut-Ins in my vicinity. Will the cousins please write to me? My address is with Aunt Minerva.

Cousin M.

I wish that many of the cousins could echo the words of this earnest young worker.

Who can more appropriately represent Wisconsin than our friend of the terrible name?

Dear Cousins:—While reading the March No. of COMFORT I saw that Aunt Minerva said that I would be at the World's Fair. Yes, I will be there, as Virginia Pedagogue etc. have a rest at present, as they will need all their "wind" when they get in Chicago and see me. I would be very glad to meet you all there and if I have a chance, I will explain my views to you, and would be glad to hear from you in turn. We must return to my subject. How many of the cousins want to have a grand banquet? Every one that does please write to Aunt Minerva as she suggested. Then she can appoint the committee, etc. I will leave the rest to the other "cousins", to express their opinion about it. I will do all that I can to help it along. I wonder how many of the "cousins" have joined the King's Sons and Daughters? And how many have sent in their 15c. admission fee (20c. if badge is wanted) to Mr. Wm. Te. Selle, Sheboygan Falls, Sheboygan Co., Wis.? Have all those that wrote to him in the first place? No? No? why not? Have you dear reader? If not, why not?

"In His Name," WISCONSIN WILD BILL.

Now a few words from Iowa.

"Annie and Dick, your letters are my sentiments exactly; will you write to me? I am 20 years old, a member of the King's Daughters. I am trying to be a Christian life and labor for the Master.

'Labor! for the day is waning,
Night is coming swiftly on,
And some task for Christ the Master
Still remaineth to be done.'

I live in northern Iowa, near the boundary line of Minn. Iowa has rich soil and good crops. Temperance work and other institutions flourish. Correspondence solicited.

Miss T. A. ANDERS, Plymouth Iowa.

"I have been reading Wise Wild Bill's letters over twice, and I believe he likes the girls better than those boys who say they do, because they have found this to be invariably the case. This world would get along in the negative if it wasn't for the girls, and the same is true of the boys; both must have a hand in it or it won't go. A good many

have been wanting to get hold of Bill and shake him, but by his name I believe he could help shake a little. Maybe he is only fooling us as to the girls; most probably he has one picked out somewhere.

JOHN T. HOFFMAN, Oronoco, Minn.

This has been my opinion of W. W. B. all along, and I think he will confess yet!

There are always so many cousins from Mo., but I select one letter.

Dear Auntie:—I'm so glad those owls have turned their backs! While they are inspecting the World's Fair, I will try and express my appreciation of COMFORT. I have been a subscriber for two or more years and think it improves with every number. Adam's Wife, I agree with you that if there were more good housewives there would be less cause for divorce, but I do not agree with you in regard to working women. I am a stenographer myself and have a number of friends who are of the same profession. What would you have a woman do? Sit down and hold her hands until some man came along and married her? At the place where I board there are 3 other stenographers and a school-teacher, all women. Every one of them follows her profession, not from inclination, but from necessity, and every one of them, including myself, can cook, sew and do housework. I think that home is the highest sphere to a woman given, but I would far rather be a professional woman than preside over some man's home. I would like to shake hands with those of the cousins who are against the use of tobacco. Intoxicating liquors, profane language and flirting. I would like to add gum-chewing, but am afraid I would call down a torrent upon my head. Another thing, girls, never allow a young man to kiss you. He may insist it is just "platonic," you know, but don't allow it. May Queen, I agree with you about novel reading. I never read a good novel without my ideal of true manhood and womanhood being raised. My home is in Illinois, and we have some of the loveliest scenery. Success to COMFORT.

EDNA EARL.

I would like to have had Kans. Sundowner to speak for her State, but as I have had no letter from her lately, we will hear from Kans. Red Bird.

"As Adam's Wife has asked a Kansas Red Bird to write again, I will endeavor to write from my new mountain home. As I write I am sitting on the stone that divides the 3 States, viz: Tenn., Va. and Ky. As I sit facing the east I can see 3 towns. At the foot of the Pinnacle is the town of Cumberland Gap; a place of about 500 inhabitants. The place which was in war times the camp (and some battle) grounds of both Union and Confederate armies. The Pinnacle

A few words from the land of Mormons, Utah.

"I live in Northern Idaho about 6 miles from Genesee, the postoffice and nearest town. Moscow the largest town is about 15 miles north and Lewistown is about 15 miles south of our place. Lapwai the Indian agency is 4 miles southeast and is a lovely place; the Indians have a pretty church and a very nice school-house there. I went down there last summer on horseback and was rowed across Clearwater by an Indian over to the town, the scenery there is lovely. Correspondence solicited from Southern girls.

FANNIE WAHL, Genesee, Idaho.

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write; my address is with Aunt Minerva. I will do my best to make a correspondence interesting. Think I had better close my key and give some one else a chance.

TELGRAPHIC.

The Western States complete the list, and we will hear first from Calif.

"Although I have always read your Chats with much interest and pleasure, yet I have never ventured to write to you myself. I witnessed with sorrow and consternation the onslaughts made on Wisconsin Wild Bill by 'those awful girls,' but my sorrow changed to delight when I read his letter in the Nov. number. I noticed that the July and August numbers were filled with girls' letters 'giving it' to the boys, but in the Nov. number the girls got it back with interest prepaid. Dear cousins, I would like you to express some opinion on the subject of games for evening parties. I would be grateful if you would suggest some games and give your opinion of these so-called kissing games. I would be glad to hear from Aunt Minerva herself on this subject. Wisconsin Wild Bill, go on with your good work, let no words of silly girls interfere with it. I feel as the little boy did who said, 'Girls are curious creatures, and father says the less I know of them, the better off I am.'

NED LAND.

I have been thinking of giving a little talk on amusements for evening companies, but will postpone it now until the cool weather of autumn begins to confine the young folks within doors. However, I will express now my thorough disapproval of the so-called "kissing games," and will give my reasons if necessary.

"I live on a ranch on an island in Puget Sound. There are 2 large saw-mills on this island; the largest is 400 by 100 feet, and saws about 300,000 feet of lumber in a day. One day I put a saddle on one of my steers and thought I would have a ride. My! but he did not get me off for all that.

CHAS. SUTTER,

Port Blakely, Kitsap Co., Wash.

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MY DEAR SHUT-IN FRIENDS:
These beautiful June days bring to our minds those perfect verses of one of America's silver-tongued poets, James Russell Lowell:

"What is so rare as a day in June?
Then, if ever, come perfect days,
Then Heaven tries the earth, if it be in tune,
And over it softly her warm ear lays,
Whether we look, or whether we listen,
We hear life murmur or see it glisten,
Every clod has a thrill of life,
An instinct within it that reaches and towers,
And groping blindly above it for light,
Climbs to a soul in grass and flowers."

Once more, the miracle of the resurrection has taken place, and Nature is clothed in her freshest robes of living green. I always feel so sorry for those who are unable to go out and enjoy the beautiful world, but loving hands will bring the sweet June roses to gladden the eye, and through the open window comes the perfume-laden breath of summer. It is better than to look out on the snow-drifts, isn't it, dear friends?

"Will you permit an old soldier to enter your circle? I know how to sympathize with the sick ones; nearly 4 years of active service in the army broke down my constitution, so that for the past 6 years I have been unable to work much, and a large portion of that time have been shut in on account of sickness. The words of the Saviour have always been precious to me, 'Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.' In an experience of 16 years, I have ever found the Saviour true to His promise, a present help in time of need. I would not know how to bear the burden of life, if it were not for the consolations of the gospel. I would say to the sick ones, look up, have faith in God, and when dark clouds seem to hover over you, remember the sun is shining on the other side of the cloud, and God's protecting care is always over us. I enjoy reading COMFORT very much, and look for its monthly visits as a friend. I live in a lovely little town in the central part of Mich.; it is mostly noted for its silk factories, the only ones in the State. I would like to correspond with some one in South or West."

P. E. MATTHEWS, Box 370, Belding, Mich.
"As I am a Shut-In, I will venture to join your band. I was taken sick when a mere child, and have been unable to walk for 17 or 18 years. My body and limbs are greatly deformed, and I am as helpless as an infant. Hope is my only consolation. I am trusting in the great beyond, where sorrow, misery and pain are not known. Now, fellow sufferers, let us be patient and prayerful, and the Lord will not forget us. Remember that all our suffering is for a wise purpose, known only to our Heavenly Father. This is a mountainous country and very picturesque; on the highest mountains there is perpetual snow. Near here are numerous mines, and also the natural curiosity known as the 'Pots.' Best wishes to all."
JOHN PROBST, Midway, Utah.

Some time will you describe these 'Pots' for us? I know that all would be interested.
"I am a poor sufferer from rheumatism; will some one send me reading matter to help pass away my lonely hours?"
Mrs. S. M. SUTTON,
Box 53, Grove, Ind. Ter.

"Many thanks to the kind friends who have helped me. I would like a few more pieces for my quilt, any kind."
MINNIE ROBERTS, Buford, Ga.

"When I was sick and not able to go out at all, I received a copy of COMFORT. If every one is cheered and helped as much as I was by the Shut-In column, then indeed COMFORT is a blessing to all. Kind friends sent me reading, and that helped to pass my time pleasantly, and I received my cheering letters. I am so thankful now that God has restored me to better health, so that I can go out at times. I prize the dear COMFORT; some kind person sends it to me, and they will be rewarded for their goodness."
Mrs. ROSA MARQUIS,
619 Louise St., Chattanooga, Tenn.

"I am a great sufferer from rheumatism, and have been confined to the bed for 3 years. Will some kind friend send me reading? I hope some time to be able to subscribe for COMFORT, but cannot now."
JOSEPH B. OSBORNE, Jarrett, W. Va.

Dear Shut-In:- May I call a few minutes this morning? I have been an invalid for a long time; have spent 6 months of the past year in bed, and undergone 2 operations. But don't think I am complaining, for let me tell you a secret, it has really been a happy year; for although my sufferings have been great, the dark cloud has had a silver lining, for Jesus has blessed me every moment, and I praise Him for His keeping power. My silver cross (for I am a Daughter of the King) has helped me so much, and I have tried to bear my pain and trouble I. H. N. I wonder if people realize how much good a letter, or a roll of papers, or some trifling gift, cheers an invalid, especially if they live on a farm in the country, as I do. Let us remember in the hours of pain that Jesus knows it all, and He sends the sunshine, the rain and snow now, that by and by the blossoms should come, and that with the birds and flowers we might sing praises to His name. Lovingly your friend,
CLARA C. FAIRCHILD, Saugus, Mass.

"I have been an invalid for 12 long years, no use of my limbs part of the time, and my little daughter has lung and heart trouble. If some one would send her pictures, toys, beads, cards, or anything that children love, to while away the hours, and to poor disabled me a few books or papers to read. We are very poor, and I do whatever fancy work I can to help along; papers containing directions for such things would be doubly appreciated. It seems almost too good to be true, that Shuts-In can come into touch with the outer world. I have passed all my days in the backwoods, which now seem a thousand times more drear."
E. R. R.,
Box 81, Montfort, Grant Co., Wisc.

"Will you admit into your happy band this morning one who comes humbly begging some little assistance from any one who feels able to help a poor suffering being? I have been afflicted many years and am only clinging to life now by what medicine I take. I am very, very poor as far as this world's goods are concerned, and my dear friends, you would think it right hard, were you to see me propped up in bed plying my needle from morning till night, and going hungry all day long in order to make a few cents with which to buy medicine. There is a dear good doctor who furnishes me medicines very cheap and I have begged money from my friends up to this time to pay him. But alas! my good neighbors have done all they could for me, and I am now falling on the world's mercy for help. I have spent many an hour in earnest prayer to our dear Heavenly Father to open some

way for me to earn just barely enough to buy my medicine. I can do on but very little to eat myself, and God in His infinite love saw fit to take away my precious child. Oh what a trial to give up our wee tottling babe, but God saw it was best to take the sweet, innocent creature to His own bosom, for it will not be long till mama too will come. What a blessed thought that God so loved the world that He gave His only Son to suffer and die that we poor sinners might be saved! How many of the cousins will help a poor woman who has not long to live. Anything sent to Aunt Minerva will be forwarded. Mrs. W."

The following poem was sent to me by a friend in Montreal for this column. It is said to have been written by Ernest Von Willich at the age of 12 years, when he lay upon a sick bed from which he never rose again:

When the Lord me sorrow sends
Let me bear it patiently,
Lifting up my heart in prayer,
Comfort He will not deny.
Therefore let there come what will,
In the Lord my heart is still.
Though the heart is often weak,
In despair and all forlorn,
When in days of utmost pain
Not a day of joy should dawn,
Tell it, let there come what will,
In the Lord my heart is still.
So I pray, oh Lord my God,
That my faith and hope may stand;
Then no care I know, nor need,
Guided ever by Thy hand,
Therefore let there come what will,
In the Lord my heart is still.

"May I send my kindest regards and assurance of high esteem to Aunt Minerva? The idea in the column of Sunshine and Sympathy for Shut-Ins is as noble as it is novel. Some 2 years ago I buried a wife who for many years was a helpless invalid, but bore her trials with a serene patience and cheerful confidence which could have but one possible source. Her whole life was radiant with the divine beauty of an indwelling Christian spirit, and when the Angel of the Summons came, with a glad transfigured look, she took his hand, smiled and vanished from our sight. Aunt Minerva speaks feelingly to the Shut-Ins of the only true and adequate source of consolation, and when the seeker finds light, it will bring joy not sorrow to the lagging hours of pain and weakness. 'We must all go to school to trouble,' even the Captain of our Salvation, it is written 'was made perfect through suffering.' Yours truly,
A. M. GOODNOUGH, Redding, Cal."

I believe that I promised to begin a Birthday list this month, and I will explain the object of it, so that all may understand. Each one whose name appears on the list is one of COMFORT's Shut-Ins, and would like, on his birthday, to receive letters from the cousins, also, little gifts, anything to make the day pleasant. These days are, to so many, painful anniversaries, reminders of another year of suffering; and let us all do what we can to cheer them. The special attention of King's Daughters and Sons is asked to this list, as well as to the one of those needing help. There is only one name this month, but more will soon follow.

COMFORT BIRTHDAY LIST.

Mary Whitaker Barfell, Lake Valley, New Mexico, Sept. 13.

Dear friends:- I am still a Shut-In, and these long warm days hang very heavily on my hands. I am going to ask more of you to write to me, and send some reading matter if possible.

THOS. J. BUNTON, Stump Knob, Tenn.
"Will you let me tell the dear friends how thankful my heart is to every one of them who sent me papers to read and letters full of kind words. Will be thankful to any one if they will send me scraps or thread to work with, for the only way that I can pass my time is to sit and work. I have been a helpless invalid all my life; but we all have work to do, even as was given to the angels when they sang 'peace on earth and good will to men.' I want you all to pray for me that I may be a shining light for Jesus' sake. Will you remember me in His Name, and write me a kind word, and may the dear Lord reward you is the prayer of your little sister in Christ."
MARGARET HAMILL, Floy, Ala.

Some friends have offered to send reading matter to those who will pay postage: I will give their addresses.

Nellie E. Matthews, Mobile, Tex.
L. J. Clark, Wiscoy, Minn.
E. Sherman, 61 Stamper St., Providence, R. I., (cancelled stamps.)
Tillie Tilman, Cambridge, Minn., ("Golden Rule" and "Sabbath Reading" for those sending address.)
Mrs. Sadie Davis, Woodlawn, Ga.

"What a great word is Comfort! What a great and good paper is COMFORT! Truly it has the right and proper name for no doubt it does bring cheer and comfort to many hundreds of thousands of homes into which it makes its monthly visits. How grateful we poor Shut-Ins are for the kindness extended us in having a corner set aside for our exclusive use and occupancy, where we can assemble together and relate our troubles and offer one another our condolence and sympathies. So let us do all we can to place this good paper into every household in the United States. I am 23 years of age; have practically been an invalid most all my life. During my childhood days I was confined to my room and kept my bed 1 year and 3 months. Since that time I recovered health and strength sufficient to study and learn the art of telegraphy, and have been enabled to work at the business some but have been unable to attend to business during the last 4 years. I think telegraphy one of the most pleasant and attractive of all other occupations. It is so nice to sit in an office and send and receive messages and read the constantly passing messages, and converse with operators over the wires. No doubt a good many readers of COMFORT would be glad to learn telegraphy or at least understand the mechanical working of the telegraph. I will gladly do all I can to assist you. I am poor and very destitute, and any aid however small would be thankfully received. I live in a lonely rural district and would like to receive many cheery and interesting letters."
JOSEPH E. MCKEE, Monk, Ga."

Names of those needing aid, etc.:
Miss Mary Myers, 222 W. 2d St., Portsmouth, Ohio.
Mrs. Annie Cox, Dothan, N. C., (reading matter especially.)

Miss Jessie D. Sample, McCall's Creek, Miss.
Mrs. A. E. Ray, Thomas, Texas.
J. E. B., Box 10, Potters Hollow, N. Y.
Miss C. E. Williams, Box 23, Ruckersville, Va.
Miss Julia Cole, Allen Springs, Ky.
With kindest wishes and sympathy. Your
AUNT MINERVA.

CURED THE FAMILY.
An invalid fellow named Green,
Who many physicians had seen
Who left him quite poor,
Got a permanent cure
By one little dose of OXIEIN.
His wife who with sufferings keen
In torture a long time had been,
Obtained ease and relief
In a period brief
Through the aid of that blessing OXIEIN.
Her daughter—a girl named Irene—
Was nervous and lanky and lean,
Became plump and fat,
And a beauty at that
From the regular use of OXIEIN.
And the son of the people I mean,
Who had just reached the age of nineteen,
Was of sleeplessness cured
And of sound sleep assured
By the magic effect of OXIEIN.

At Factory Cost.
A novel plan is that adopted by Cornish & Co., Washington, New Jersey, in their new catalogue. They have printed against each piano and organ cut the exact factory cost of each instrument, thus showing at a glance the exact amount one can save by purchasing of them. This handsome catalogue will be sent on application as is stated in their advertisement in this paper.

BOOKS, Photos, Novelties, &c. Large Illustrated Catalogue for stamp. F. B. TEEL, Hurleyville, N. Y.

18 SQUARE
Inches Old Gold, Red, Blue, Pink or White
Satin, all stamped, suitable for Pie Cushions,
Bachelors, etc., sent for 10 cents silver.
MILLINER, Box X Augusta, Maine.

AGENTS \$12 PER
is averaged by some of our Agents, and their sales are
made easier every month in the same old territory.
AGENTS, TRY US! Address EAST INDIA CO.,
Jersey City, N. J.

CUT THIS OUT and return it to us
or stamps, and we will insert your
name in our Agent's Directory. You
will get thousands of Papers, Cards,
Magazines, Novelties, etc., from
fishers and manufacturers who want Agents. DON'T
MISS THIS! WESTERN MAIL CO., St. Louis, Mo.

CATARH CURED.
Look here, friend, do you suffer with Catarrh—are you
constantly hawking and spitting—have you a running from
the nose? If so, send a self-addressed stamped envelope
to the Coryza Remedy Co., 2006-9th Ave. New
York, and you will receive a recipe free of charge that
will cure you of this dreadful disease.

A PRESENT.
SEND us your address and we will make you a
present of the best Automatic WASHING
MACHINE in the World. No wash-board or tub
being needed. We want you to show it to your friends,
or act as agent if you can. You can COIN MONEY.
We also give a HANDSOME WATCH to the
first from each county who writes quick. Address
N. Y. LAUNDRY WORKS, 80 Murray Street, N. Y.

LEARN BOOKKEEPING AT HOME without a teacher, within 100 hours' study—from my book. YOU
CAN! Price, \$3. J. H. GOODWIN, R312, 1215 E'way, NEW YORK.

FREE
For 30 Days. Wishing to introduce our Crayon Portraits and at the same time
extend our business and make new customers, we have decided to make this Special Offer:
Send us a Cabinet Picture, Photograph, Tintype, Ambrotype or Daguerrotype of yourself
or any member of your family, living or dead and we will make you a CRAYON POR-
TRAIT FREE OF CHARGE. We will exhibit it to your friends as a sample of our
work, and use your influence in securing us future orders. Place name and address on
back of picture and it will be returned in perfect order. We make any change in picture
you wish not interfering with the likeness. Refer to any bank in Chicago. Address all mail to THE CRESCENT
CRAYON CO., Opposite New German Theatre, CHICAGO, ILL. P. S.—We will forfeit \$100 to any-
one sending us photo and not receiving crayon picture FREE as per this offer. This offer is donald.

Please mention COMFORT when you write.

HAIR ON THE FACE, NECK, ARMS OR ANY PART OF THE PERSON
QUICKLY DISSOLVED AND REMOVED WITH THE NEW SOLUTION
MODENE
AND THE GROWTH FOREVER DESTROYED WITHOUT THE SLIGHTEST
INJURY OR DISCOLORATION OF THE MOST DELICATE SKIN.
Discovered by Accident.—An incomprehensible, an incomplete mixture was accidentally
spilled on the back of the hand, and on washing afterward it was discovered that the hair was
completely removed. We purchased the new discovery and named it MODENE. It is perfectly
pure, free from all injurious substances, and so simple any one can use it. It acts mildly but
surely, and you will be surprised and delighted with the results. Apply for a few minutes and the
hair disappears as if by magic. It has no resemblance whatever to any other preparation ever used
for a like purpose, and no scientific discovery ever attained such wonderful results. IT CAN
NOT FAIL. If the growth be light, one application will remove it permanently; the heavy
growth such as the beard or hair on moles may require two or more applications before all the
roots are destroyed, although all hair will be removed at each application, and without slightest
injury or unpleasant feeling when applied or after. SCORPION SUPERFINE ELECTROLYTIC.
Recommended by all who have tested its merits.—Used by people of refinement.
Gentlemen who do not appreciate nature's gift of a beard, will find a priceless boon in Modene,
which does away with shaving. It dissolves and destroys the life principle of the hair, thereby
rendering its future growth an utter impossibility, and is guaranteed to be as harmless as water
to the skin. Young persons who find an embarrassing growth of hair coming, should use Modene
to destroy its growth. Modene sent by mail, in safety mailing cases, postage paid, (securely
sealed from observation) on receipt of price, \$1.00 per bottle. Send money by letter, with your
full address written plainly. (Correspondence sent by mail.) Postage stamps received the
same as cash. (ALWAYS MENTION YOUR COUNTY AND THIS PAPER.) Cut this advertisement out.
LOCAL AND MODENE MANUFACTURING CO., CINCINNATI, O., U. S. A.
GENERAL AGENTS WANTED. Manufacturers of the Highest Grade Hair Preparations.
You can register your letter at any Post-office to insure its safe delivery.
We offer \$1,000 FOR FAILURE OR THE SLIGHTEST INJURY. EVERY BOTTLE GUARANTEED.

MUSIC MADE EASY!
The Latest Wonder
MUSIC
WITHOUT A TEACHER.
A Remarkable Invention. Everybody can now Play at Sight by the
WONDERFUL FIGURATIVE MUSICAL NOTATIONS.
If you can read you can play the Piano or Organ in one day better than
you could be taught in many lessons by a teacher.
Pearl's Easy System of Music is entirely different from many so-called easy methods
sold under various names. No Chart or Pasteboard Cards with Lines to Lay
on the Key-Board, or any other device to complicate or confuse the beginner. It
is an entirely new and common-sense way of abbreviating and simplifying regularly
written music, so that a child can read the symbols at sight without a teacher. It enables the
beginner to READ, COUNT and FINGER correctly, and PLAY AT SIGHT on the PIANO, ORGAN
or MELODEON. Teachers of music who have examined it recommend and advise its use, as it
teaches correctly, advances the pupil, and encourages a musical interest with little practice. We guarantee
that any person from SIX to SIXTY years of age can read and play this music AT SIGHT, or will receive
the price of the Method. It is published in handsome book form, printed on fine paper. Contains full instructions,
the rudiments of music, exercises, sacred and instrumental music, 12 pieces besides instruction,
only 60 cts., by mail.

FREE
A beautiful enameled scarf or stick
pin with imitation diamond centre, and
our book with 450 fine engravings sent
FREE to any one sending 3 cents for
postage. Write at once.
H. KNOBLOCH & CO., 1192 E'way, N. Y.

THE WORLD'S FAIR PUZZLE WHISTLE.
You ought to hear it fill the air with
car-splitting, uproarious racket. It deaf-
ens and stuns with its deep, full, powerful
notes. Will thrill, roll, or make a single
ear-piercing note which can be heard for
miles. Blow it and have it to your friend's
lots of fun in it. Useful to stop a stage, call a dog, make signals
at night, call help from a distance, in field or workshop. Can
be carried in the vest pocket. The boss of all whistles. Elegantly
finished, heavily nickel plated. So attractive a little novelty
that every one who sees it wants it. You should have it.
Price 12 cents. Catalogue of guns, revolvers, violins, en-
game, Magic Tricks, free.
BOSTON NOVELTY CO., Box 1540, BOSTON, MASS.

LOVELY FACES,
WHITE HANDS.
Nothing will
WHITEN and CLEAR
the skin so quickly as
Derma-Royale
The new discovery for dissolv-
ing and removing discolorations from the cuticle,
and bleaching and brightening the complexion. In
experimenting in the laundry with a new bleach for
fine fabrics it was discovered that all spots, freckles,
tan, and other discolorations were quickly removed
from the hands and arms without the slightest in-
jury to the skin. The discovery was submitted to
experienced Dermatologists and Physicians who pre-
pared for us the formula of the marvelous Derma-
Royale. THERE NEVER WAS ANYTHING LIKE IT. It is
perfectly harmless and so simple a child can use it.
Apply at night—the improvement apparent after a
single application will surprise and delight you. It
quickly dissolves and removes the worst forms of
moth-patches, brown or liver spots, freckles, black
heads, blotches, sallowness, redness, tan and every
discoloration of the cuticle. One bottle completely
removes and cures the most aggravated case and
thoroughly clears, whitens and beautifies the com-
plexion. It has never failed—IT CANNOT FAIL. It is
highly recommended by Physicians and its sure
results warrant us in offering

\$500 REWARD.—To assure the public of its
merits we agree to forfeit
Five Hundred Dollars cash, for any case of moth-
patches, brown spots, liver spots, freckles, black
or muddy skin, unnatural redness, freckles, tan or
any other cutaneous discolorations, (excepting birth
marks, scars, and those of a scrofulous or kindred
nature) that Derma-Royale will not quickly remove
and cure. We also agree to forfeit Five Hundred
Dollars to any person whose skin can be injured in
the slightest possible manner, or to anyone whose
complexion (no matter in how bad condition it may
be), will not be cleared, whitened, improved and
beautified by the use of Derma-Royale.

Put up in elegant style in large eight-ounce bottles.
Price, \$1.00. EVERY BOTTLE GUARANTEED.
Derma-Royale sent to any address, safely packed
and securely sealed from observation, safe delivery
guaranteed, on receipt of price, \$1.00 per bottle.
Send money by registered letter or money order with
your full post-office address written plainly; be sure
to give your County, and mention this paper.
Correspondence sent by mail. Postage stamps
received the same as cash.

AGENTS WANTED Send for Terms
Scale on Sight \$10 A DAY.
Address THE DERMA-ROYALE COMPANY,
Corner Baker and Vine Streets, CINCINNATI OHIO.

Up in a Balloon

Do little girls and boys ever go up in a balloon? Oh yes, sometimes, and perhaps sometimes when they do not care to, as you will see later on, how it happened to two little boys. Most people would not take a sail in a balloon for anything; they say that it is dangerous. Yes, it would also be dangerous to get into a carriage to take a ride behind a high-spirited or fractious horse, with an unskilled driver, or on a railway train with an inexperienced engineer. In the hands of skilled persons there would be little danger in either case, and in one no more than the other.

Now all little boys and girls, nor the older people, could take a sail in a balloon even if they wished to, because there are so few people who make a business of ballooning that they would not have a chance. And, it costs a great deal of money to make a large balloon and to fill it with gas already to go; in fact, a great deal more than it would to buy a good horse and carriage, not to say anything about the trouble. This is, perhaps, one of the reasons that we do not see more balloons than we do.

A balloon, as I said before, is very much like a high-spirited horse, very frisky sometimes, especially when there is a little wind; but let us proceed with our story, and see what some little girls and boys say, who have taken a ride in a balloon.

"I have made over nine ascensions in a balloon with my papa and sister," said Miss Mamie Allen to a correspondent the other day. "I don't see any danger in it either." Miss Mamie and Rosie Allen, two bright young misses, who live with their parents, who are professional aeronauts living in Rhode Island, will talk by the hour of their experiences in balloon traveling, and as if there were no more risk in it than in playing a game of lawn tennis or cricket. They have been visiting cloudland with their father since they were three and five years of age, and have made over nine and five ascensions respectively. They say there is no sport or pleasure equal to it. The following accounts of two of their ascensions, related by Miss Mamie, may be interesting.

"My first ascension was made on a public holiday and from our city. Father had been engaged to give a balloon ascension as one of the attractions of the day. When the hour came for the balloon to go up, we all, for there



the big we were six of us, got into the large basket or car that is attached to the balloon, and while the people who had gathered to see us were cheering and the band playing, we shot up into the clouds. Our balloon did not remain long in sight to those below us, for the clouds were low and threatened rain, but in a few minutes we had passed up through them and were sailing along in sunshine and a clear sky above us. It was a beautiful sight and experience to us. Aside from the bright sky above and the dark clouds below, with a shadow of our balloon upon them, aside from this we could see nothing more.

"We had a large fish horn that we blew occasionally, wondering what the people below who heard it would think, for we could hear plainly the rumbling of trains and the whistles of the locomotives. It was very warm, being the latter part of June, and we had to fan ourselves to keep comfortable. After sailing along and enjoying this novel sport above the clouds for over two hours, and not once during this time getting a sight of the earth, papa let out some gas and we began to descend slowly through the clouds, landing safely in a field near a place called Cumberland Hill. A cow that was grazing near and seeing our big balloon, became so frightened that she ran into the woods, and as we learned afterwards, it was

three days before she could be induced to come out into the open pasture again.

"Of course it is more pleasant to go up on a fair day, when the atmosphere is clear; it is then that you can see long distances. Such a day we were fortunate to get later on. It was 4 o'clock in the afternoon when our party, which again consisted of six, climbed into the car and ascended towards the sky. Everything below looked beautiful. In passing over the Providence river, we could see the fishes and the rocks at the bottom of the river plainly; in fact, such a thing would have been impossible had we stood on the banks of the river. We could see nearly the whole length of the river, we were so high, while the shore resorts and a beautiful view of Narragansett Bay gave a grand panoramic effect. We landed after a delightful trip of thirty miles from our starting place, near Bridgewater. Do we get dizzy when looking down from such lofty heights? No, not at all; there is no such feeling and none of that unpleasant sensation that is generally experienced when looking down from the top of some high building or observatory."

I will now relate an amusing incident that took place near Saratoga some time ago, in which two little boys played a prominent part. A well-known lady aeronaut gave a grand balloon ascension at the above named place, and after traveling over the country for a distance of thirteen miles or more, concluded to make a landing, and seeing three little boys playing in a field in which she was going to try and land, she called to them to come and help her. As soon as the balloon touched the ground, two of the little boys who had hastened to her assistance, grasped hold of the ropes and basket and held fast; but the third little fellow was afraid of the balloon and would not go near the other two were enough to hold the balloon down until the lady the gas, and as there wind, the balloon the air again, and up, sometimes a hundred feet or more, and all this time the two plucky little boys held fast to the ropes and basket. After skipping and hopping up and down over the fields and fences for over a mile, the lady finally ripped for the purpose, when the big balloon fell on the ground like a big bag. The two little boys, although a little frightened, said it was "lots of fun" and when they told the other little boy what fun they had riding in the air, it made him feel a little ashamed to think he had not done something to help the lady in the balloon.

There has been a great deal said lately about navigating the air in ships of proper capacity to not only carry passengers but for freight business also, and it will only be a matter of time probably when this will be accomplished and transportation of all kinds carried on up in the clouds. Many ingenious inventors have spent years of their lifetime trying to solve the flying machine problem and there are new ones constantly being added to their number who think they will surely be lucky ones to come off victorious. A few more strides in perfecting the use of the wonderful electric current will no doubt clear away the mysteries which now hang over the air ship question and bring light enough to enable some one to see a successful solution of the problem, and COMFORT is already preparing illustrated articles on air ships which will soon be published showing the latest attempts in this line.

Balloons already used in Russian war service. A late cablegram to a New York daily in speaking of this subject says:

Of late, in fact, ever since the reports circulated of the arrival in Poland of large numbers of Russian troops several balloons, which came from the German frontier, have been seen hovering over the Russian fortresses and camps. These balloons are believed here to form part of an extensive German balloon spy service.

IN PLAIN SIGHT BUT OUT OF RANGE. Recently a balloon was floating above the fortress at Kovno. So certain were the officers stationed there that the object of the balloonists was to learn military secrets that orders were given to fire upon the balloon.

Notwithstanding the long range of the modern rifle it was impossible to hit the balloon, which was at a very high altitude, and its occupants, by means of glasses, pursued their investigations entirely undisturbed by the bullets aimed in their direction.

A close watch was kept upon the balloon, and the watchers were surprised to find that it appeared to be under perfect control. After hovering about the fortress for no little time it returned to the German frontier, its occupants evidently having gained the knowledge they sought for.

A close watch was kept upon the balloon, and the watchers were surprised to find that it appeared to be under perfect control. After hovering about the fortress for no little time it returned to the German frontier, its occupants evidently having gained the knowledge they sought for.

PERFECTLY UNDER CONTROL.

A more surprising incident occurred a few days ago at Dombrowice, eighty-four miles west of Warsaw. Here a balloon was seen that gave flat contradiction to the belief that aerial navigation is mostly if not entirely a matter of wind currents.

This balloon made its appearance sailing against the wind, which at the time was blowing a fresh breeze. When it had reached a point above the military camp it stopped for a time, and was then maneuvered in a manner that showed it was provided with a highly perfected steering apparatus.

The Russian military authorities believe, and the Russian territory give good grounds for their belief, that France and Germany possess an efficient balloon steering apparatus that will render balloons an important factor in warfare.

The possibilities of balloons in war have often been discussed, and if it proves true that it is possible to send them in any direction desired a new and most dangerous element will have to be guarded against by commanders of armies.

This will prove a most perplexing problem, for at present there is no possible way of protecting soldiers in the field from a fire upon them directly from above by an enemy who is safely beyond rifle range.

The advent of THE DOLLAR TYPEWRITER was welcomed by thousands of persons, and the fact that over 100,000 were sold last year, should be sufficient guarantee of its merits. A sample can be obtained of R. H. INGERSOLL & BRO., 65 Cortlandt St., New York City, for \$1.00 and if sent by mail would cost 15cts. extra for postage.

IMPERIAL POCKET PEN & PENCIL 10c
CLUB of 14 postpaid for \$1.00.
Marks Lines, Cards, Papers, Everything
New Agents make BIG Money. Terms Free
THALMAN MFG. CO., No. 175 Balt. St., Baltimore, Md.

MONEY made rapidly selling the "NEW MODEL HALL TYPEWRITER." AGENTS allowed better commissions than ever before offered by a standard company. Sell a useful article, please everybody and make money yourself. It will pay you to address N. TYPEWRITER CO., Boston, Mass.

FREE SILVER SPOONS

To introduce my goods quickly I make this liberal offer: I will give any lady One Dozen Tea Spoons, Heavy Silver plated, latest artistic design, warranted to wear, who will dispose of 1 Dozen Boxes of Hawley's Corn Salve (warranted to cure) among friends at 25¢ a box. I ask no money in advance, simply send me your name; I will mail you the silver spoons paid. When sold you send me the money and I will mail you the 1 dozen handsome Tea Spoons. If you find you can't sell salve, I take it back. I run all the risk. Address R. HAWLEY, Chemist, Berlin, Wisconsin.

HOW TO MAKE A FORTUNE.

WANTED—Salesmen; who can easily make twenty-five to seventy-five dollars per week, selling the Celebrated "Pinless Clothes Line," or the Famous "Macomber Fountain Ink Eraser." Patents recently issued. Sold ONLY by salesmen, to whom we give Exclusive Territory. The Pinless Clothes Line is the only line ever invented that holds clothes without pins—a perfect success. The Macomber Fountain Ink Eraser is entirely new; will erase ink instantly, and is king of all. On receipt of 50¢ will mail you sample of either, or sample of both for \$1, with circulars, price-lists and terms. Secure your territory at once. Address THE PINLESS CLOTHES LINE CO., No. 121 Hermon St., Worcester, Mass.

SAMPLE HARNESS FREE!



This is a regular \$20 harness but in order to introduce our goods and get agents working for the next 90 days, we will sell them for \$6.87 and give ONE FREE IF YOU SELL SIX. Cut this out and send it to us with \$1 as a guarantee of good faith, and we will send the harness to you by express, C. O. D., subject to examination, and if you find it all we claim and perfectly satisfactory, you pay the express agent the balance \$5.87 and take the harness, OTHERWISE PAY NOTHING! When cash in full \$6.87 accompanies the order we send FREE a genuine felt saddle pad, worth \$1. This single harness is made of genuine oak stock either in bright or black trimmings, with patent leather bands with either side or overcheck; heavy breast collar and patent leather saddle, and double and stitched traces. All parts are accurately made and sewed by experienced labor. If you want a harness or can sell one or wish to SELL SIX AND GET ONE FREE, order immediately, this is your last chance to get a \$20 harness for \$6.87 as this ad will never appear again, address FLOUR CITY HARNESS COMPANY, 222 Nicollet Ave., Minneapolis, Minn. Mention COMFORT.

"WORTH A GUINEA A BOX."

BEECHAM'S PILLS

TASTELESS—EFFECTUAL FOR A DISORDERED LIVER

Taken as directed these famous Pills will prove marvellous restoratives to all enfeebled by the above or kindred diseases.

25 Cents a Box, but generally recognized in England and, in fact throughout the world to be "worth a guinea a box," for the reason that they WILL CURE a wide range of complaints, and that they have saved to many sufferers not merely one but many guineas, in doctors' bills.

Covered with a Tasteless & Soluble Coating. Of all druggists. Price 25 cents a box. New York Depot, 365 Canal St.

"MEDICATED CREAM" is the ONLY KNOWN, harmless, pleasant and absolutely SURE and infallible cure. It positively and effectively removes ALL, clear and completely in a few days only, leaving the skin clear and unblemished always, and clearing it of all mudiness and coarseness. It is a true remedy to cure and soothe a painter's powder to cover up and hide blemishes. Mailed in a plain, sealed wrapper for 30¢, or \$1 for 50¢, by George A. Stoddard, Druggist, 1236 Niagara St., Buffalo, N.Y.

PIMPLES

BLACK HEADS. FLESH WORMS.

RIPANS TABULES regulate the stomach, liver and bowels, purify the blood, are safe and effectual: the best general family medicine known for biliousness, constipation, dyspepsia, foul breath, headache, heartburn, loss of appetite, mental depression, painful digestion, pimples, sallow complexion, tired feeling, and every symptom or disease resulting from impure blood, or a failure by the stomach, liver or intestines to perform their proper functions. Persons given to over-eating are benefited by taking one after each meal. Price by mail, 1 gross \$3; by express, 1 gross \$4.50. Agents Wanted; EIGHTY per cent profit.

RIPANS TABULES

Beginning. First Week. Second Week. Third Week.

Dear Sir: We KNOW that the only preparation is all the world that will effect the magical results herein shown, AND NEVER FAIL, is AMRITA, or Juice of the India Soma Plant. We will be glad to send a trial case of Amrita, free of expense to any man who desires to test its marvelous qualities. Address The Webber Institute, COLUMBUS, OHIO.

THIS HANDSOME ONE DIME WATCH FOR 10 cts. in silver to-day and you may secure one of these handsome watches FREE as premiums to each of the first 100 persons sending 10c. for a Golden Box of Goods and the correct solution of the rebus herewith. The letters and characters when accurately solved depict one of the largest or Western states of the Union. Send your answer to-day. WHICH STATE IS IT? Do not confuse this bona-fide offer with the delusive and doubtful premium donation offers with which the papers are inundated, whose promoters (if they are to be believed) give away hundreds of thousands of dollars in gold annually. I make no such idle boasts, but restrict myself to only one FREE premium promise as I know I can carry out, with a view to advertising my specialties—a fact which is known.

all over the United States, and has conducted to make my house one of the most reliable and largely patronized in the country. MY GREAT OFFER: With your answer CUT OUT THIS ADV. and return to me with 10 cts. in silver for a GOLDEN BOX OF GOODS that will bring you in more money than anything else in America. Absolutely certain. No capital required and suitable for either sex. This simply means that all get more than the value of their money, and in consequence with the terms of this offer you may Get one of These Beautiful Watches FREE! and remember, I absolutely Give Away 100 of these Handsome Watches. This is a bona-fide offer emanating from a thoroughly reliable house. Write your name and address plainly, and mail your 10 cts. in silver at once. W. S. SIMPSON, 37 College Place, N.Y. City.

Take COMFORT in

A HAMMOCK

19,000 PERFECT, STRONG, MEXICAN HAND-TIED HAMMOCKS, SAME AS GIVEN AWAY!

That all may take COMFORT during the hot weather.

YOU can defy the Mid-summer heat and disorders by seeking some shady nook, and read and repose in one of these health-giving popular articles. They are over 10 feet long, and each one is tested to 300 LBS. DEAD WEIGHT.

Never before could such a BARGAIN be offered in the Hammock line. The regular price has always been from \$2.00 to \$5.00 for a good serviceable Hammock. We got them direct from an inland manufacturer, and secured a great lot to increase our subscription list as we knew by giving them away with our magazine COMFORT it was the best way to get people to take COMFORT.

are colored, and have very strong white metal rings on the ends and large strong cords on the whole length of the sides, so there can be no giving away when you get nicely ensconced on Sunday afternoon. The average person weighs about one hundred to 150 lbs.; these Hammocks will hold 300 lbs.

Outdoor life is very beneficial to our health. Many people can sleep in a Hammock and save BEDS. A picnic is incomplete without one or two. The price has always been so high that many people could not afford what seemed a luxury. You will find it a necessity to have one around, and won't part with it for ANY MONEY. We want agents to handle them; they can MAKE MONEY. So we make this big offer. We will send our monthly one year and the complete Hammock, paying all express and mailing charges, if you enclose only \$1.00 for the outfit. This chance to secure one so cheap will only be open for a short time, and we advise all to accept at once. They are suitable for men, women and children, and the like of this was never known. We make this offer to introduce for next season. Order yours at ONCE! NOW! enclose only \$1.00 for all.

BETTER STILL—If you will send us a Club of 6 Subscribers, at 25¢ each, we will send the Hammock free as a premium.

MORSE & CO., Box 998, Augusta, Maine.

Young Folks' Department



MY DEAR YOUNG FOLKS:
School is almost over, and I suppose you are all glad that the vacation time is so near. It is pleasant to exchange the four walls of the school-room for the freedom of the beautiful outside world, when the birds and flowers and the fresh, sweet air, all seem to be inviting us to come out and be happy with them. And yet, after all, as we who are older look back on our past experiences and pleasures—foremost among them in deep enjoyment seem to us to have been, not so much the vacation seasons, but the hours spent with our books. To be sure we must all have our times of rest and recreation. It is a fact, too, proven by experience that those peoples or nations that do not take recreatory pleasures are enfeebled and puny. This is especially evident to one who is familiar with the history of the Chinese, or to such as have lived in certain districts of California. The failure to observe Sunday brings with it very appreciable penalties. It is, however, quite a safe rule for us to make, that consistent occupation will be a greater source of enjoyment to us than extra long vacations. The old adage that "An idler's brain is the Devil's work-

A LITTLE SUMMER SHOWER.

THEIR FIRST EXPERIENCE.



WHAT IS IT?

shop" is only too true. The school-room is the place in which we may best fit ourselves for the hard battles of after life. Let us love the place. Let us persevere ungrudgingly our books for the principles and foundation which will inevitably do much to determine the success or failure of our after life.

This is rather heavy advice for my little folks, but you will grow to it, my dears, and don't let it weigh on your minds while you are making mud-pies and playing tag this summer!

Dear Aunt Minerva—I am a boy 13 years old. I am trying to be a Christian. I am getting a collection of Indian relics, minerals and sea-shells, and should be glad to hear from cousins that can send me any of these things. I will pay postage on all things that are curiosities and nice for a cabinet. I have been taking COMFORT for about a year and hope to take it next year. My father is a contractor and builder. Kewanee is a town of about 5,000 inhabitants, is 131 miles from Chicago. The Western Tube company is here. There are three public schools here and the Catholics are going to build a school this spring. Good-bye dear Aunt Minerva! Your nephew,

RUSSELL NEVILLE, P. O. Box 380, Kewanee, Ill.
This letter shows a laudable ambition on the part of the writer and any who can, would do well to assist him in making such an interesting collection. Master Russell will do well to have some text-book simply and briefly written, and study his minerals as he collects them.

"Having planned an excursion to the mountains, my father and I started off one bright Thursday morning, and after riding about 3 hours and a half we got to Mauch Chunk. That was the place where the excursion went. When we got off the train the first thing that attracted our attention was the Switch Back, and we thought we would go over it before we got any dinner and then we could get a good seat. After climbing a pretty steep hill we got to the station and got the front seat. When the car was full, it started off, and as it was nearly all a gravity road, the car ran to the foot of the mountain called Mount Pisgah, and there a pusher came up behind the car and pushed it up the mountain; there were 2 tracks, and when a car was going up one, a pusher would come down on the other. The pushers were operated by a stationary engine at the top of the mountain. As soon as the top was reached, the car started by gravity again and ran slowly over a bridge that spanned a hollow place at the top of the mountain. When it got over the bridge the brakeman let it go a bit faster and we went down the mountain at a pretty good speed. We were soon at the bottom of the mountain and then the car was pushed up another mountain called Mount Jefferson. When the top of that was reached, off we went again and soon reached a



GOOD GRACIOUS! IT'S COMING IN.

village called Summit Hill. There a stop was made so that the passengers could spend a bit of time walking around. Father and I started off to see the burning coal mines, but when we were nearly there, father thought that the best way would be to go back and get the front seat again, and then go to Glen Onoko. So we started off and got the front seat and waited. I began looking around to see what there was. While doing so, I noticed a big stone. Now there was nothing unusual in that, as there was a lot of large stones strewn around; but what attracted me was a flower that would shake in a funny way, and as there was no wind and nobody around, there was no cause for it. When I enquired, no one knew, so I started off to investigate and find out for myself. When I was nearly there, I saw a surprise to

behold the stone, big as it was, get up and walk off, leaving me there looking dumb. Now what do you think the stone was? It was no less than a pig that had been amusing itself rolling in the mud till it was the color of the mud itself and then lay down to take a nap. The pig's ear tickled, so he kept shaking it, and that in turn shook the flower. I had found out what it was, so I started back to the car, only to find myself the laughing stock of all that were in the car at the time. I was not so extra curious after that, I can tell you. This happened 6 years ago, but I remember it as clearly as if it had happened last week. When father and I went there again, last year, he said, 'I wonder if the stone is eaten up yet?' I said I guessed it was a pretty good porker for Thanksgiving. FRED COTSHOTT, Philadelphia, Pa.

"This letter is very amusing and will show all the young folks how easy it is to get deceived. Never be too sure, or too curious and venturesome! But if you have not an inquiring turn of mind, a great many interesting things will escape your observation. I am not forgetting the very little ones, and here is a letter from one of them, all so nicely printed.

"I am a little boy 5 years old. Mama takes your paper, and I like the cousins' letters very much. I can read, spell, count to 100, and write a little, but mama thought I had better print this. For pets I have a cat and a chicken. Success to the paper and good luck to all. LYMAN BIXBE, Rood House, Ill."

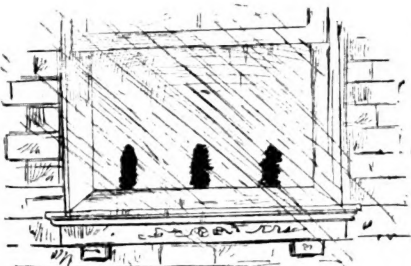
You are a smart little fellow, Lyman, to be able to read, spell, and count, at your age. I hope you will write me another nice letter some time.

Dear Aunt— I thought I would write again. I watched a little bird build her nest the other day. Pa says I watched her too much, she never came back any more. There are so many pretty birds singing in the trees; they seem to say, 'Little maiden, this is spring.' I saw a humming-bird this morning, but I could not catch him; he was among the wild flowers. You ought to see the wild flowers we have here; they cover the prairie, they nod to you by the roadside, and peep at you from under the hedges. The lovely roses are now in full bloom, and wheat harvest is at hand. I am glad that there is such a place as Augusta, Maine, for that is the home of COMFORT. JENNIE HYNDMAN, Mount Valley, Kans.

I should like to see the pretty wild flowers, Jennie; we do not have as many in Maine. In the spring we have dog-tooth violets and the real violets, white, yellow and blue, arbutus, hepaticas, anemones, bell-worts, bluets and some others.

Dear Aunt Minerva—I am a new subscriber to your paper, and enjoy the cousins' letters very much. I live in the Old North State in a thriving little manufacturing town, situated on the C. & L. R. R., and near the banks of Maiden Creek from which it derives its name. There is one cotton factory in this place, one about a half mile from here, and another large one being built here. There is also a church, 3 dry goods stores, 1 drug store, 1 furniture shop, 1 blacksmith shop and 1 butcher shop in the place. I am 15 years old, and would like to correspond with some of the cousins about my age. I prefer to hear from Northern and Western States. Your niece,

PEARL C. GALL, Maiden N. C.



GUESS WE'D BETTER GO.

These and other letters before me are all good and full of interest. We will have no more room for letters in this column at this time but will let you hear more at another time. Wishing you all the greatest joy possible to your young lives.

Your affectionate, AUNT MINERVA.

Indigestion, Dizziness. Take BEECHAM'S PILLS.



MOUSTACHE. 10,000 USE ELECTROLYNE, the great hair restorer. Guaranteed to grow a luxuriant MOUSTACHE; a beautiful head of HAIR in shortest time possible. Satisfaction guaranteed. Don't waste money on worthless powders. Price 50c per box, 3 for \$1. Trial box and particulars 10c. ESSEX SPECIFIC CO., B 1 Montclair, N.J.

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COMPLETE, 44 plates rubber type, type holder, bottle ink, ink pad and tweezers. Put up in neat box with directions for use. Satisfaction guaranteed. Worth 50c. Best value money can buy. Sets names in 1 minute. Prints 500 cards an hour. Sent postpaid 15¢; for 25c, Cat. free. R. H. INGERSOLL & BRO. 65 Cortlandt St., N. Y. City.

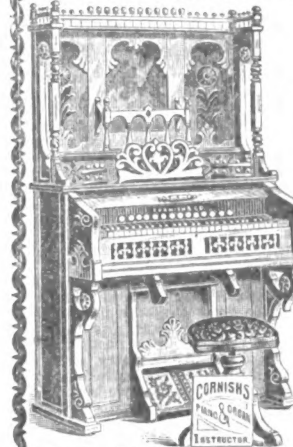
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id with the people; and we make this wonderful offer, knowing that we can sell every one of the first 5,000 COLUMBIAN PARLOR ORGANS almost as soon as this announcement is made public. Bear in mind that the above terms apply to the FIRST FIVE THOUSAND ONLY. **FINEST CABINET PARLOR ORGAN MADE** All latest patents and improvements. Solid Walnut Case of unique design. The magnificent top is constructed and designed to represent one of the altars in the Lady Chapel at Genoa—the birthplace of Columbus. Mouse-proof Action. New Stop work. 8 Octaves, 14 Stops, 2 Octave Couplers, 2 Knees Swells, and 5 perfect sets of Orchestra Tones. Bedstead Warranted for TEN YEARS. Handsome Stool and Instruction Book free. Organ sent on approval. Safe delivery absolutely guaranteed. Boxed and delivered free on board cars here. No risk to purchaser.

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of A F02 GET HER

The above Rebus is an OLD SAYING, familiar to every one. **WHAT IS IT?** We will give to the first person from whom we receive the correct answer on or before August 31st, 1902, \$100.00 IN GOLD. To the second, \$50.00 to the third, \$25.00 to the next five persons, a Handsome Silk Dress Pattern of 16 Yards in black, blue, green, brown or gray. To the next 10 a Solid Gold Genuine Diamond Ring, and to the next 15 sending in the correct answer, \$5 each. To the person from whom we receive the last correct answer, we will give \$100 IN GOLD. To the next to the last \$50.00 to the next \$25.00 the next a Handsome Silk Dress Pattern of 16 Yards in one of above colors, to the next a Solid Gold Genuine Diamond Ring, and to the next 15 (should there be so many sending in correct answers) \$5 each. We prepay all shipping charges on presents, and send in accordance with this offer on the same day the answer is received. All answers must be sent by mail. With your answer send us 25c in silver or 50c in stamps for a vial of Dr. Hobb's Little Vegetable Pills.

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DR. HOBBS' LITTLE VEGETABLE PILLS act gently yet promptly on the Liver and Kidneys, dispelling Headaches, Fevers and Colds, cleansing the system thoroughly and cure habitual constipation. They are sugar coated, do not grip, are very small, easy to take, one pill a dose, and are purely vegetable. Perfect digestion follows their use. They absolutely cure Sick Headache, and are recommended by leading physicians.

each person who has sent in an answer.

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ANSWER TO-DAY! A SPECIAL prize will be given for the FIRST correct answer received from a reader of COMFORT.

You need work.

(If not this adv. does not interest you)

You can make \$75 to \$250 a month, provided you work with a little vim, vigor, pluck and push.

We have got something new. It costs nothing to investigate. Must have a live, wide-awake representative in your community, either man or woman at once. All information cheerfully sent by return mail. Better write to-day. Address in full,

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CONSUMPTION. I have a positive remedy for the above disease; by its use thousands of cases of the worst kind and of long standing have been cured. Indeed so strong is my faith in its efficacy, that I will send TWO BOTTLES FREE, with a VALUABLE TREATISE on this disease to any sufferer who will send me their Express and P. O. address. **T. A. Slocum, M. C., 181 Pearl St., N. Y.**

HERE YOU ARE BOYS! THIS GRAND FISHERMAN'S OUTFIT.



We have here gotten together the whole thing in a neat shell. A low price complete outfit in a box ready to be sent by mail anywhere. FREE of further expense.

There are two remarkable things about this Champion Outfit. It has never been attempted BEFORE. Read the descriptions carefully.

No. 1. ONE BRIGHT METAL REEL. This is a perfect reel, works well and when attached to the pole will wind any line in first-class style. No click.

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No. 4. ONE LONG COTTON LINE. Dark colored, nicely cross-wound on a block, and good for every-day fishing after perch, catfish, sun fish, etc.

No. 5. ONE LINE FURNISHED COMPLETE WITH HOOK, BOB, AND SINKER. This is a whole outfit in itself, comprising a long and strong line with medium size hook attached and neat movable bob and sinker. With bait at hand and this line in his pocket the fisherman can start right in and try his luck.

No. 6. ONE DOZEN BEST STEEL RINGED FISH HOOKS (assorted sizes). These are best grade of hooks, warranted strong, sharp in points and barbs and handy to use, anybody being able to tie them into the ring of the hook. With this set of hooks the fisherman can try his luck for any size fish from minnows to weak fish.

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Here then is a complete Fisherman's outfit at the unusual price of half a dollar. No excuse now; any man or boy in either city or country can afford this complete assortment, and ought to keep his family in fish the year round, or catch enough to sell. As much sport can be had with this outfit as with a ten dollar one.

We sell this for 50c, postpaid. Given as a premium for 6 yearly subscribers to COMFORT at 10c each. Address, MORSE & CO., Augusta, Maine.

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Cut this ad. out and send to us and we will send you this beautiful Solid Gold plated watch, by express and if you do not find it equal to any watch retail at \$28.00 and worth 4 times the price we ask you need not pay one cent, otherwise use the express agent \$6.00 and the watch is yours. The movement is a full jeweled Elgin style lever, expansion balance, quick train (18,000 beats) with oil tempered Pinion and Hair Spring. It is a durable and accurate time keeper. The case is made of composition metal ever which is placed in plates solid 14k Gold. This watch is fully warranted 15 years. In carrying this watch you have the credit of owning a solid gold watch and for use is just as desirable. State which wanted Ladies or Gents size also your post and express office. If you send full amount (\$6.00) with order we will send by reg. mail and include a gold-plated chain which would cost you nearly the price of watch.

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Please mention COMFORT when you write.



MY DEAR MYSTIC FRIENDS:
Here I am again, and my heart is filled with joy as I greet you once more at Comfort's Realm where you gather each month to meet the old man from "Mystic Land," who journeys forth from his ancient home with staff in one hand and a large mystic grip-sack in the other. Many of you who have not gathered with us before, no doubt would like to know what that peculiar grip-sack contains. Listen, while he tells you.

Perplexing puzzles from his Mystic Friends, letters, solutions and many other things pertaining to "Mystic Land," are to be found therein. And do you know, dear friends, every reader of COMFORT is invited to contribute towards the contents of that grip-sack. You will find it a pleasant and instructive pastime, making and solving puzzles; if you are a novice in the art, just study carefully the "Mysteries" below, and it will not be long before you will be able to contribute some puzzles and solutions of your own for publication. Remember to address your letters to Oldcastle, Comfort, Utica, N. Y., and sign name and address as well as *nom de plume* every time you write. Then too, there are some nice prizes offered each month for solving. Try to win one! Do not get discouraged if you cannot solve all the puzzles; but send what you do get, be it a single solution.

We heartily welcome the new recruits who come forward this month and hope they may abide with us for many months to come. We have jolly times, tangling and untangling the "Intricate Knots," don't we, Mystic Friends? and we want to add to our enjoyment all we can. Oldcastle is making arrangements to have a new departure in the puzzle line of the "Mystic Castle," and the September number will be known as the "Square Issue." Each one of our Mystic Friends is invited to contribute an original square puzzle for this issue, and the best ones will be published. Also, a nice prize will be awarded to the author of the best short article (not to exceed two hundred words) concerning the "square." Contributions must be received prior to Aug. 1, and should be marked "For the square issue." If this contest proves interesting, others will follow on the various kinds of puzzles.

Please do not write with lead pencil. Always date your letters and lists of solutions, and sign your name after each puzzle. Devote a sheet to each contributed puzzle. Your list of solutions may be written on a single sheet, but in all cases write on one side of the paper, only.

Puzzles have been received and accepted from: Lomax, 4; Jupiter, Roland, Nuisance, 3; Maineac, Aspiro, Waldemar, 1.

None succeeded in obtaining the correct solution to No. 294, but many sent solutions which might be considered applicable, such as "evil, vile," "death, hated." However, those who solved but this puzzle were credited with a complete list.

Completes:—Doc, Waldemar, Aspiro, Ed Ward, Sphinx, McGregor, Duroc, Mrs. Blanche Bancroft, Hercules, Katie Green, Chance, Ypsie, Eglantine, Arty Fishel, Frank, Buck I. Solver, W. E. Wiatt and Lucie.

Incompletes:—Tyro, A. F. B., Beb, Roland, Ben Net and J. C. M.; Nettie Simon, Nuisance, 5; Pat Riot and Phil, 4; Audax, F. I. Dont, Columbia, Thinker, Josie Bourjal and Eugene, 3; Rosebud, R. O. Chester, Lucile, G. Whizz and I. Stenidler, 2; Apollo, Fancy and C. E. Bechtel, 1.

Prize winners:—1. Doc. 2. Waldemar. 3. Aspiro. Specials:—1. Apollo. 2. Roland. 3. Miss Josie Bourjal.

No. 296, C. E. Bechtel.

We would be pleased to hear from A. F. Holt and other masters of the "form" puzzles, and receive contributions from them for our "square issue."

I have dealt out a generous supply of puzzles for your study this time and must chat no longer, else some may be crowded out. Hoping to have you all co-operate to make our "square issue" one long to be remembered in the annals of Puzzledom, as a bright, entertaining feature of "The Mystic Castle," I take my footstep homeward.

Your dear old Mystic Friend, OLDCASTLE.

SOLUTIONS TO MARCH MYSTERIES.

No. 283. "A soft answer turneth away wrath, but grievous words stir up anger."

No. 290. CAPOTE, AZURES, PUPILS, ORIOLE, TELLER, ESSERA.

No. 294. H, JET, PASHA, JASPER, HESPERIAN, THERMAL, ARIAN, SAL, N.

No. 297. Unnoticed, continued.

MISTLES, INTRANT, STRANGE, TRACTOR, LANTERN, ENERGE, STERNER.

MYSTERIES.

No. 317. Numerical.

My whole, composed of 28 letters, is a familiar quotation from Pope.

My 13, 6, 19, 27, 1, 21, 15, 22 is a gift or grant.

My 5, 2, 14, 11, 2, 26 is movement in musical time.

My 10, 24, 17, 7, 3, 9 is a concealed smile.

My 25, 4, 18, 20, 6 is to slap, or to move quickly.

My 16, 12, 23 is strife.

Worcester, Mass., Doc.

No. 318. Numerical.

The 8, 4, 10 is a most useful fluid.

The 5, 9, 22, 18, 25 is an instrument of punishment.

The 13, 15, 3, 16, 7 is a metal frame.

The 25, 1, 12, 20, 2 is a bitter plant.

The 19, 22, 23, 20, 6 is to awaken.

The 21, 17, 11, 11, 24 is a piece of furniture.

The whole, composed of 25 letters, is the title of a book by a famous American author.

Eureka, Cal., ALWAYS.

No. 319. Charade.
My FIRST is dressed in various shades,
And likes my SECOND well;
My SECOND flies at sight of first,
As from some danger fell.
My SECOND lives in many climes,
In every zone 'tis found;
Sometimes upon the highest cliff,
Sometimes upon the ground.
My WHOLE is small; of no great fame;
But likes the garden well;
It moves about and makes a noise,
Its name, now, who can tell?
Richmond, Va., JOAN OF ARC.

No. 320. Crossword.
In cat not in dog,
In carry not in tote;
In vapor not in fog,
In rampart not in moat;
In eagle not in condor,
In muse not in ponder;
In source not in mouth,
Whole, a tree that grows down South,
Ocala, Florida, JENNIE MOWRY.

No. 321. Crossword.
In money not in cash,
In sudden not in tale;
In praise not in sing,
In scatter not in fling;
In choose not in sort,
In mirth not in sport;
In thought not in care,
In courage not in dare,
In sober not in demure,
My whole, you will find is "pure."
Ypsilanti, Mich., YPSIE.

No. 322. Rebus.
TAKE
TO
SEE
ME
THOSE
Park Side, Ill., COWBOY.

No. 323. Rebuses.
1. S T E 2. A M & A. 3. P R B
Brunswick, Ga., LIVE OAK.

No. 324. Numerical.
8, 5, 2, 10
"A violent assault of temptation" find;
But 'tis very rare, please bear in mind.
4, 6, 9, 11, 3.
Just simply "savage" this will be.
1, 7, 3, 11, we next adduce,
"A mass designed for a special use."
Now, if the solver does his duty,
He'll find the answer, "moral beauty."
Etna, Ohio, ESSAY.

No. 325. Numerical.
The whole, composed of 14 letters, pertains to gin-
ger.
The 1, 2, 3, 10 is a metal.
The 4, 5, 3, 10, 12, 13, 14 is electro-positive.
The 6, 7, 9, 8 is a wild quadruped of the genus Ursus.
The 11, 9, 8 is attention.
Seaton, Oregon, NUISANCE.

No. 326. Charade.
As FIRST in the SECOND went gliding away,
O'er the waters so smooth of the beautiful bay;
His sweetheart on shore stood smiling and bland,
And this she did say as she waved her white hand,
"Come back my dear FIRST soon as ever you can,
Bring plenty of SECOND, I'll have ready the pan,
For the sake of our stomachs, I beg you'll make haste,
And a good fry of WHOLE will just suit our taste."
Providence, R. I., RAY.

No. 327. Diamond.
1. A letter. 2. A small mouthful. 3. Articles of merchandise. 4. Severe in language. 5. Told in the ear. 6. One who peruses. 7. Young herrings. 8. A chariot of war. 9. A letter.
Poultney, Vt., GUARDINER.

No. 328. Diamond.
1. A letter. 2. A Hebrew. 3. Pertaining to a house. 4. Charged in debt. 5. A plant of the genus Coix. 6. An intermittent compound. 7. Divide between two river basins. 8. Skin. 9. That which has the quality of drying. 10. Cohesive. 11. A letter from Thinker.
Norris City, Ill., ROY.

No. 329. Numerical.
The 1, 5 is an interjection.
The 3, 4, 25, 32 is a dog.
The 7, 9, 23, 25, 2 is an ear of corn.
The 4, 11, 18, 21, 32 is a clan.
The 6, 14, 15, 20, 16 is an odoriferous plant.
The 10, 19, 27, 17, 6 is a kind of weasel.
The 26, 29, 17, 22, 2 is a trap.
The 28, 30, 22, 5, 13, 32, 31 is a small whole.
The 12, 16 is an interjection.
The WHOLE, composed of 32 letters, is a quotation from Fuller.
White Lake, S. Dak., O. B. SERVER.

No. 330. Epenthesis.
Mary had a little lamb, and of it she was PRIME;
But one fine day it wandered away, as it had many a time.
It happened that the tender lamb made a wolf a re-
past,
So you see, Mary's little lamb was lost and never last.
Grafton, Ill., LOMAX.

No. 331. Charade.
My FIRST the loveliest month of all the year,
When fragrant flowers and singing birds appear,
During my FIRST, for my SECONDS you may look,
Upon each sunny hillside, and in the leafy nook.
My WHOLE, a vessel staunch and true
Across the ocean bore an exile crew,
To plant on wild New England shore,
The tree of freedom, forever more.
Providence, R. I., MARION STEVENS.

No. 332. Hexagon.
1. A polishing material made of potter's clay that has failed in baking. 2. One of a group of N. A. Indians. 3. The wild ox of Java. 4. Incited to action. 5. An order of Italian monks. 6. Truly. 7. Prevalent. 8. To carry abroad, (obs.) 9. Young herrings. New Chester, Pa., CASTRANOVA.

PRIZES FOR SOLUTIONS.
For the best list of answers to this month's "Mysteries," A Floroscopic Microscope; for the next best, Payne's Business Pointers; for the third, Carl's Treasure Cabinet.

Specials:—1. Multum in Parvo Songster. 2. One year's subscription to COMFORT.

Contest closes Aug. 1, 1892. Solutions, solvers and prize-winners will be announced in September "Mystic Castle."

LOOK HERE FRIEND, ARE YOU SICK?

Do you suffer from Dyspepsia, Indigestion, Sour Stomach, Liver Complaint, Nervousness, Lost Appetite, Biliousness, Exhaustion or Tired Feeling, Pains in Chest or Lungs, Dry Cough, Night Sweats, Nervous Debility or any form of Consumption? If so, send to Prof. Hart, 88 Warren St., New York, who will send you free, by mail, a bottle of medicine which is a sure cure, to-day.

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BOTTLED ELECTRICITY
FOR CATARRH
OF THE BLADDER
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MANAGERS WANTED Everywhere to take charge of circulars and employ help to sell goods. WAGES \$50 t. \$125 PER MONTH. Expenses advanced. State experience. Wages expected, also your preference for home work or extra. ELDER, SLOAN & CO., Mrs. 294 George St., Cincinnati, O.

FAT FOLKS reduced, 15 lbs. a month, any one can make reduced. Safe and sure. Particulars 2c. Dr. R., Box 404, St. Louis, Mo.

BEATTY'S ORGANS, PIANOS \$25 up. Agents wanted. Catalogue Free. Daniel F. Beatty, Washington, N. J.

Please mention COMFORT when you write.

IT WILL PAY AGENTS to send their addresses and 3c. in stamps at once to AGENTS NOVELTY MFG. CO., 50 Bond St. N. Y.

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OLD COINS WANTED. Look Sharp for Old Coins. You might find Coins Worth Thousands. Others have. Send 2 stamps for finely illustrated Circular. Numismatic Bank, Boston, Mass.

LOOK HERE. Our Patent Safety Lamp Burner Collar and Filler improves the light, avoids removing burner and chimney in filling, prevents disagreeable odors, and removes danger of explosion. Fits all lamps; needed where lamps are used. **One Dozen Free** to every person who answers this ad, and will help introduce them. Premium Watch to Agents. **J. BRIDE & CO., Nassau St., N. Y. City.**

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First there are **SIX ALPHABETS**, and in addition just **204 HANDSOME PATTERNS.** Here is the list:—

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| 1 Japanese Alphabet 1 1/2 in. high. | 6 Flower Designs for Powdering 4 in. wide. | 4 Braiding Designs 1 in. wide. |
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| 1 Bow-knot Alphabet 2 1/2 in. high. | 12 Dolly Designs 4 x 4 inches. | 1 Border Holly-hocks 6 x 17 in. |
| 1 Forget-me-not Alphabet 2 inches high. | 1 Half Wreath Roses 11 in. across. | 1 Design Peacock's Feather 9 1/2 inches high. |
| 1 Spray Golden Rod 4 1/2 in. high. | 1 Unique Design for Powdering, 7 x 9 in. | 1 Horse Shoe. |
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| 1 Border Rose Buds and Forget-me-nots 1 1/2 in. wd. | 1 Trumpet Flower. | 1 Small Fuchsias 7 1/2 x 14 in. |
| 1 Des. for Laundry Bag 12 x 14 in. | 1 Fancy Border 3 in. wide. | 1 Fancy Design 14 x 14 in. |
| 1 Fruit Design, Pear, 7 x 9 in. | 6 Handsome Designs for All Over Work from 2 to 5 in. across. | 1 Outline Design Cherub. |
| 1 Design Sweet Peas 6 x 8 in. | 1 Wreath Rose Buds and Daisies 5 x 5 in. | 9 Small Flower Designs. |
| 1 Daffodil Design 7 1/2 x 9 1/2 in. | 1 Design for Umbrella Design Horse Head. | 1 Half Wreath Fuchsias. |
| 2 Arabesque Designs 6 1/2 x 6 1/2 in. | 10 Flower Designs from 2 to 3 in. high. | 1 Design Buttercups 4 1/2 x 5 1/2 in. |
| 1 Design Scallops and Vine for Silk Embroidery 2 in. wide. | 1 Cherry Border for Lunch Cloth 6 x 6 in. | 1 Design Roses 6 1/2 x 8 1/2 in. |
| 1 Design, Flowers, Fruit, Leaves, etc., for Powdering, 7 x 9 in. | 1 Design Owl 6 in. high. | 1 Design Forget-me-nots 4 x 8 1/2 in. |
| 1 Design Stork, Cat-tails and Lilies 11 x 16 in. | 1 Handsome Border 9 x 18 in. | 1 Design for Egg Cosey 3 1/2 x 4 inches. |
| 1 Design Poppies 9 x 11 1/2 in. | 1 Pineapple Design for Blotting Case 9 x 11 1/2 inches. | 5 Fruit Designs 3 1/2 x 3 1/2 in. |
| 1 Border of Roses 5 x 18 in. | 1 Calla Lily 4 1/2 in. high. | 1 Arabesque Corner Design 7 x 7 in. |
| 1 Bird 4 1/2 in. high. | 1 Roses and Bow-knot Design 11 x 11 in. | 1 Applique Border 4 in. wide. |
| 1 Whirl 1 1/2 in. high. | 1 Design Daisies and Wheat 6 1/2 in. high. | 1 Border Elderberries 1 1/2 in. wide. |
| 1 Leaf. | 1 Panel Design for Braiding 1 1/2 x 1 1/2 in. high. | 5 Designs for All Over Work. |
| 2 Narrow Scallop Designs. | 1 Pansy Design 9 in. square. | 5 Scallop Designs, all different. |
| 1 Border for Comb-ing Cape 3 in. wide. | 6 Flower Designs for Dollies, or scattering, 3 x 5 in. | 1 Design Carnation Pinks and Forget-me-nots 4 x 8 in. |
| 1 Vase Flowers 4 x 6 in. | 7 Designs for Tray Cloths and Napkins from 2 to 4 1/2 in. high. | 1 Corn Design 5 1/2 in. high. |
| 1 Border of Cacti 6 x 18 in. | 1 Applique Border 4 in. wide. | 1 Butterfly 3 1/2 in. high. |
| 1 Design Carving Knife and Fork 14 in. long. | 1 Leaf Design 7 1/2 x 11 1/2 inches. | |
| 4 Designs (1 set) for Tray Cloth, 5 in. high. | 1 Design Snowballs 6 x 8 1/2 in. | |
| 1 Jonquil 6 1/2 in. high. | 1 Design Cherries 5 1/2 x 5 1/2 in. | |
| 3 Designs, Fancies, Tiger Lily and Leaf, for Dollies, 7 x 7 in. | 1 Fond Lily Design 6 1/2 in. | |
| 1 Fern Design 5 1/2 in. high. | 1 Snowball Design 5 x 7 1/2 in. | |
| 1 Cluster Leaves 5 in. high. | 1 Horse Shoe with Flowers 4 in. high. | |
| 1 Design for Needle Case. | 1 Design Lily of the Valley 6 1/2 in. | |
| 1 Vine Forget-me-nots. | 1 Sporting Design 2 1/2 x 4 in. | |
| 1 Design Roses 5 x 5 in. | 1 Design Morning Glories 3 x 4 in. | |
| 1 Cluster Daisies 7 in. high. | 1 Outline Design Doe 4 x 5 in. | |
| 1 Design for Pillow Sham 16 1/2 in. high. | 1 Sunflower 5 in. high. | |
| 7 Designs for Tray and Carvers Cloths from 3 to 5 in. high. | 2 Designs for Shaving Case. | |
| | 1 Design for Fray Cloth 7 1/2 x 8 in. | |

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IS THIS WHAT AILS YOU?
Do you feel generally miserable, or suffer with a thousand and one indescribable bad feelings, both mental and physical, among them low spirits, nervousness, weariness, listlessness, weakness, dizziness, feelings of fullness or bloating after eating, or sense of "gummedness" or emptiness of stomach in morning, flesh soft and lacking firmness, headache, blurring of eyesight, specks floating before the eyes, nervous irritability, poor memory, chilliness, alternating with hot flushes, lassitude, throbbing, gurgling or rumbling sensations in bowels, with heat and nipping pains occasionally, palpitation of heart, short breath on exertion, slow circulation of blood, cold feet, pain and oppression in chest and back, pain around the loins, aching and weariness of the lower limbs, drowsiness after meals but nervous wakefulness at night, languor in the morning, and a constant feeling of dread as if something awful was about to happen?
If you have any or all of these symptoms, send 40 cents to me, and I will send you, postpaid, some simple and harmless powders, pleasant to take and easy directions, which, if you follow, will positively and effectually cure in from one to three weeks' time, no matter how bad you may be. Few have suffered from these causes more than I, and fewer still at my age (58) are in more perfect health than I am now. The same means will cure you.
GEO. N. STODDARD, Druggist, Buffalo, N. Y.



According to the latest official report, nine and three-quarter acres of space will be devoted to the

According to the latest official report, nine and three-quarter acres of space will be devoted to the display of electrical discoveries, at the coming World's Fair. Among the thousand and one weird, wild and wonderful inventions which will astonish the natives, in this interesting field of scientific discovery, none will perhaps attract more popular attention than the ingenious little infernal machine which is here correctly kodaked. It is called the "Kinsabby Cat Paralyzer," and is the latest thing out. It is the discovery of a man who has suffered; and, unlike other inventions which are offered to the public for revenue only, the Paralyzer is gotten up purely for COMFORT. The device consists of an artificial cat made of catnip-tanned Skingloris skin, and is operated by a vest-pocket battery specially designed for this novel purpose. The outfit is so constructed as to admit of its being rolled up and carried in the pocket when not in use, and, in this form, it takes up no more room than the ordinary pocket-book.

To fit the Paralyzer for active service, it is only necessary to inflate it with air by means of an automatic tube, and connect



it with the fatal current. It can be placed on a war footing in less than seven seconds, and goes about its death-dealing work in as quiet a manner as could be desired by the most humane Christian.

The execution of condemned criminals by electricity, in New York, is what first suggested the thing to the author, who otherwise is a perfectly modest, harmless, and law-abiding citizen. He feels that he has not only invented a Paralyzer that paralyzes, but that he has discovered that kind of "protection which protects" and which will carry grateful relief to millions of weary, wakeful hearts.

For simplicity of construction, ease of manipulation, and absolute destructive powers, the device will prove, he believes, the very *ne plus ultra* of human happiness, and fill a long-felt want. A child can operate the Paralyzer with the same surprising results achieved by a giant. Such are its elements of toughness, elasticity, and strength, that neither use, climate, nor atmospheric changes can affect its efficacy; and, being provided with the patent Edison equipoise attachment, it may be sprung on the enemy in any position and from any height without the least danger of throwing it out of kilter, as it were. It retains its perfect equilibrium under all conditions; and though it may turn a double backward summersault in mid-air, it is bound to land upon its feet all ready for action the moment it strikes bottom. Being strongly impregnated with the odor of catnip, its presence quickly attracts the enemy; and by a slight pressure on the "button" by the operator, its very breath becomes the venom of a vampire, and bodily contact with it means instantaneous death. A gentleman from Kokomo, Indiana, who travels for a soap house, writes that he has tested the Paralyzer on every variety of cat, from the plain, every-day Thomas who nightly leads the backyard orchestra, and the mild-mannered Kennebunk coon kitten, to the Wyoming wood puss or prairie queen, and that it has never failed to give entire satisfaction. He adds that in action it resembles a winged wild-cat wrestling with hydrophobia. From various other parts of the country Mr. Kinsabby has received similar tidings of comfort and joy.

"CITIZEN" wants to know if the cucumber in its raw state is healthy, and whether it is a fruit or vegetable. We consider the cucumber one of the healthiest blessings we have. Nothing that wears peel or pelt, hair or hide, fin or feather, is liable to fewer diseases. It is truly a genuine June joy from way-back. It often happens that its youthful vigor gets tangled up with the interior mechanism of man, and makes him feel as though he had swallowed a torchlight procession; but in all such cases it is the citizen that is unhealthy, and not the cucumber.

As to whether the cucumber is a fruit or a vegetable, we wish to say that it is neither. It is an animal. We believe that it has eight hind legs, and that it is born with chronic insomnia and a desire to kick.

A MAN in Happy Valley, California, who signs himself "Lodge Night," writes: "Can you tell me of any thing that will keep a rooster from crowing in the small hours of the night? I am an active member of several benevolent societies in this place, and every time I get home a little late some restless fowl in the neighborhood manages to arouse my wife and her temper."

ANSWER. A few grains of arsenic mixed in the food, and given internally just at eventide, has been found to be a very effective remedy for silencing loud-mouthed roosters; and some of our fellow-citizens of color are said to possess a natural-born knack for hypnotizing chickens. But the most effective and novel thing we know of is the invention to which the learned poultry editor of the "New York Tribune" directed attention some time ago. It was gotten up by a man named Hartmann, and is called the "Rooster Tranquillizer." In the words of this follower of Horace Greeley, there has all along been an enemy of the married man, especially in the smaller cities and towns, and in the suburbs. And that is the rooster. As is well known, this base fowl "singeth" as Shakespeare hath it, only in the latter part of the night. A few young wives have been made to believe that the American rooster begins to crow shortly after eleven o'clock; but the great majority of wives fully understand, either from observation or from a consultation of the encyclopædia, that he seldom crows before one o'clock, and not usually till after two.

Therefore it has been in the past, that, although the tardy husband has approached the bedside of his spouse in sockless feet and dismal darkness, this unholy bird has put his head out of the coop window, and with one superfluous crow undone it all! But



this is not going to be true in the future. With the Hartmann system, the roosts of the chicken-coop will consist of brass poles, and some seven or eight inches above each pole there will be a wire. The roost will be connected with one pole of an electric battery, and the wire with the other. Ordinarily the fowls will only touch the roost; but when an ill-advised cock puts up his head to crow, and thereby betray some innocent married man, his crest will touch the wire, which will complete the circuit, and he will receive a shock which will cause him to sit down and ponder on the marvels of modern invention. The Tranquillizer can be applied at small cost, and no well-regulated family in the Hentown districts should be without it.

A CLEVER young miss named Mumford,
Who lives on a farm near Rumford,
In a trap caught two owls,
And sent these wise fowls
To Aunt Minerva, in care of COMFORT.

THEY had just been married, and they were so happy. Any stick of a man could see that. There



mers' trunks, when the happy pair alighted from the parlor-car "Sultana." Arm-in-arm and hand-in-hand they meandered up to the Canada side of the platform, where the young man displayed his liberality by patronizing the Royal Italian pea-nut repository. Then they strolled back, and drifted into the ladies' waiting-room, pre-empted a cosy corner-seat, and began overhauling the contents of the little paper bag. The place was pretty well filled, and, as the eyes swept across the wilderness of faces, the husband of a day seemed to fear that his own dear true-heart would get away from him. At any rate, he acted as though he thought a total eclipse of the sun was about to occur, or that the depot was going to slide through a tunnel, for in a jiffy his arm stole around her slender waist, and never did fond hearts nestle more closely together. With an awkward movement he captured her little hand just as it was conveying one of the toothsome nutlets to the rosy lips, drew it to his mouth, and grinned like the end-man at a minstrel show. The audience began to snicker; and a street larriken, who took in the situation through a window, called out to the young man to "come down off the roof;" but the chap was either too busy or hard of hearing, and it became clear to every one that he was born to blush unseen.

It is funny how folks afflicted that way will act sometimes; and in less than a minute every one was onto the silly racket of the honeymooners, and watching for new developments.

Perhaps it isn't so everywhere; but at Augusta the railroad waiting-room was built for two kinds of people,—those who come laden with pleasure, peanuts, and parcels, and those whose hearts are groaning under the weight of troubles, tears, and trunks. Both kinds were there on this occasion; and just as every thing looked all serene, a short, fat little woman who sat all by herself, surrounded by a bird-cage, hat-box, and carpet-bag, burst out crying, and her loud sobs quickly attracted attention. She seemed badly broken up about something all of a sudden, and the more she tried to check her grief, the louder it came. It wasn't long before a slender, pleasant-faced lady, accompanied by a little child, stepped up to her, and tried to console her, and probe for the bottom of her sorrow. After several vain attempts to speak, the woman with the bird said that she was ashamed to show her weakness before so many strangers, but that the carrying-on of the young couple in the corner had suddenly recalled



to her heart a keen personal sorrow. Eleven years ago she sat in this same depot, she said, with a young man from Hoboken, New Jersey, whom she was to marry that very day. Under the promise of getting some peanuts for her, he had excused himself for a moment, but had boarded a Canada train, and shamefully deserted her.

As fate would have it, before the listener could utter a word of consolation, the railroad newsboy, who knows every popular comic song by heart, passed the open door singing the latest music-hall craze, "He'll Never Come Back;" and as the plaintive refrain, consisting of a repetition of these sad words, met the ears of the stricken woman, it proved the last cruel stab to her wounded heart, and not only did she lose all control of herself, but her would-be comforter was also moved to bitter tears. The situation, which had now become uncomfortably solemn, grew highly dramatic when the child frantically tugged at its mother's skirts, and tearfully begged to be taken "home to papa," while the canary bird sounded its shrillest notes in a vain attempt to drown out the



chorus. People began to crowd around the weeping women, and even the peanut fiends stopped work for a moment. The crowd couldn't have felt worse if the band had struck up "Comrades." And it was only when some fellow of a man said that this was the saddest thing he had seen since the Maine Volunteers went to the front in the spring of '61, and that he thought he had better run for a doctor, that the young mother braced up, dried her tears, and exclaimed that "Men had neither hearts nor sense!" "Any woman," she added, "ought to thank her stars for not having thrown herself away upon a cold-blooded villain." She, too, had suffered, she said, for six weeks after having married a Bangor man who eloped with a lobster-eyed servant-girl. She wound up by proclaiming that not one man in a thousand could be trusted. This brought another woman to her feet. She wore a stunning green bonnet with red feathers, and had determination written all over her counte-



was fatally interrupted by the young bride's rushing to the door hysterically screaming "Help! help! or I shall escape!" and landing plump in the arms of the conductor, just as he looked in to shout "All aboard!"

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To Our Readers.

The July issue of COMFORT will be a special souvenir number and will alone be worth more than the price at which we are now accepting subscribers for a whole year. Every man, woman and child will want to preserve forever the twenty-four lifelike "faces in feather" which among other things will embellish the prize title-page. A corps of the best artists, engravers and writers will unite in making the issue worthy of the "Day We Celebrate." It will be one of the most unique and entertaining papers ever published. Among other features there will be a full-page article on Australia by Mr. Harold Kinsabby, whose humorous sketches, which appeared exclusively in our May and June issues, are but specimens of the good things to come in this department of COMFORT. This article, which will likewise appear only in our columns, will be splendidly illustrated with scenes from the Wonderland of the Southern Hemisphere engraved from photographs and curiosities in the possession of the author. This holiday number will also contain much original matter of special interest to ladies, including Happy Hints on Home Dressmaking, Sensible Suggestions for Summer, Aunt Minerva's Chats, illustrated short stories and other seasonable matter which will be highly enjoyed by all. We are determined that every number of COMFORT shall be a great improvement upon its predecessor and go laden with more "tidings of comfort and joy" to the million.

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